FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 DECEMBER 1983

Lebanon

Security Situation — Lebanese Army positions came under intermittent gunfire on 27 December despite the latest cease-fire, Beirut radio reported. A British soldier was wounded by an explosion in Beirut and a French convoy came under fire, the radio also noted. South of Beirut, fighting continued in the Al-Kharrub district, where 3 people were killed and 12 others were wounded by shellfire on the town of Shhim, the radio said.

In the Israeli-occupied sector, an Israeli border police officer was killed and another policeman was wounded in a clash with a "terrorist" squad east of Sidon late on 26 December, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio. Three "terrorists" were killed in exchanges of fire which started when a police patrol apprehended them as they preparing to plant a bomb. Six explosions in Sidon the following night wounded six persons, according to Beirut radio.

Government News Conference — The security plan to be completed this week will be a "major political step forward" that will change existing conditions, Foreign Minister Elie Salim stated at a news conference reported by Beirut radio. Although the plan will not affect areas under Syrian and Israeli military control, it will allow the Lebanese Army and Internal Security Forces to deploy in certain areas in and around Beirut from which Phalangist and Progressive Socialist Party forces will withdraw, he disclosed.

As for the Lebanese Army's recent deployment in the Sabra and Shatila areas, Information Minister Roger Shaykhani and Assistant Chief of Army Intelligence Colonel Nabil Farhat stressed that the Army was merely acting on its policy of filling every vacuum created by the withdrawal of other forces. The Army was notified only 10 minutes before the French withdrawal from the area and consequently had insufficient time to plan the operation, Farhat pointed out. Shaykhani revealed that the Army arrested around 150 people in Shatila and Sabra, of whom 52 are subject to deportation as "aliens" lacking legal documents.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat presided over a meeting of the PLO Military Council in San'a', Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. Discussions focused on current political developments, the results of the Tripoli battle against the "Syrian-Libyan plot," and future Palestinian military action, "particularly inside the occupied homeland." Palestinian sources disclosed that 'Arafat is expected to arrive in Tunis on 28 December to preside over meetings of the Fatah Central Committee, according to INA.

Egyptian Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din held talks with a Palestinian delegation in Cairo on the results of 'Arafat's meeting with President Husni Mubarak and on the possibility the PLO may be granted diplomatic status in Cairo early in 1984, Radio Monte Carlo noted.

Samir Gawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, said in a statement reported by the Ash-Shariqah paper *AL-KHALIJ* that the Palestinian leaders in Damascus are studying legal and constitutional ways to secure 'Arafat's dismissal as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

Egypt

Cairo's *AL-AHRAM* welcomed President Reagan's statement that he no longer considers a solution of the Lebanese crisis necessary before tackling the Middle East peace process, MENA reported. This means the United States has changed its position completely and come to realize that 'Arafat must join the peace process so that the Palestine issue can take precedence over the Lebanese problem, the paper concluded.

Syria

Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad died from an incurable disease on 28 December, Damascus radio announced the following morning.

Kuwait

The number of people arrested in connection with the explosions on 12 December has risen to 19, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn announced in a statement reported by KUNA.

Afghanistan

Afghan rebels marked the fourth anniversary of the Soviet invasion by mounting a series of attacks in and around Kabul, AFP reported citing sources in Islamabad close to the resistance. In another report on the new rebel radio transmitter, Paris radio identified the station as "Radio Free Kabul, the voice of the mujahidin."

Meanwhile, an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement on Afghanistan broadcast by Tehran radio urged rebel groups to work toward "maximum unity" in order to continue the struggle and defeat the Soviet invaders.

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'Arafat Chairs Military Meeting in San'a'

JN271728 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] presided over a meeting of the Palestinian Military Council in San'a'. The council members discussed current events in the Palestinian arena and other developments on the Arab and international levels related to the Palestinian cause. They also discussed the results of the steadfastness battle in Tripoli, stressing that the Palestinian revolution's heroic steadfastness there foiled the objectives and evil intentions of the Syrian-Libyan plot — namely liquidating the historical Palestinian legitimacy and independent Palestinian decisionmaking. The council members also discussed the dimensions of future Palestinian military action, particularly inside the occupied homeland. The council's meetings are continuing.

Secret Resolutions Adopted

LD280946 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0908 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] San'a', 28 Dec (KUNA) — The PLO representative to San'a', Mr Hikmat Zayd, said today that the Fatah Military Council, during secret meetings that ended here last night, has adopted a number of secret resolutions to face up to the Zionist enemy everywhere.

Mr Zayd informed KUNA in a telephone call this morning that the council, which met under the chairmanship of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, has drawn the bases and plans for this action, taking into consideration the military and political positions of the PLO in the light of recent developments.

The Palestinian official talked about the meeting between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He said that during their second meeting since the arrival of Mr 'Arafat here 2 days ago, they discussed the general situation in the Palestinian arena and exchanged views concerning current issues. He said that the Yemeni president expressed his solidarity with the people of Palestine and renewed his support for the unity of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of that people and affirmed the necessity of continuing the Palestinian armed struggle against the Zionist enemy.

Mr Hikmat Zayd affirmed that the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO Executive Committee will meet in Tunis within the next 48 hours under the chairmanship of Mr 'Arafat. He said that any political move or official visits by Mr 'Arafat will be decided in the light of the Tunis meetings.

Boycott of Meeting

JN280734 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — The representatives of the Palestinian revolution groups have decided to reject Yasir 'Arafat's invitation to attend the meeting of the Supreme Military Council in San'a' and to consider this invitation as a new maneuver by 'Arafat to calm the strong public reaction against and wide denunciation of his treasonous move. The representatives of the Palestinian revolution groups, who met in Damascus, have also examined the continuous reactions against 'Arafat's treasonous visit to Cairo and his announcement to give up armed struggle. The representatives discussed appropriate practical means to foil the U.S. settlement plan.

It will be recalled that the series of meetings, which began last Friday, were attended by the representatives of Fatah, thePFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP-GC, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, the Palestine Liberation Front, the Popular Liberation War Vanguards Organization-As-Sa'iqah Forces, and the Palestine Communist Party.

In the meantime, Palestinian popular organziations have affirmed that 'Arafat's visit to Cairo is a clear and flagrant violation of the Palestine National Charter and the resolutions of the PNC sessions. The organizations issued a statement to this effect saying: 'Arafat has chosen the Camp David capital as his first stop to express his full association with the U.S. settlement plan.

The statement calls for strengthening the cohesion among Syria, the Palestinian revolution, and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and consolidating ties with the socialist bloc countries headed by the USSR. It also calls for creating the right circumstances for continuing Palestinian armed struggle against all capitulatory plans, achieving national unity, and improving forms of armed struggle inside the occupied territory.

The statement was issued by the branches of the Palestinian students, workers, teachers, women, engineers, writers, journalists, doctors, pharmacists, jurists, artists, youth, and sports federations as well as the Jordanian Trade Union Federation.

'Arafat, YAR President Hold Talks in San'a'

JN271732 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar and YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih have held a meeting at the Presidential Palace in San'a'. They comprehensively discussed the developments in the Palestinian arena, the results of the steadfastness and the battle of challenge in Tripoli, and the Palestinian evacuation from Tripoli. They also discussed bilateral relations and the means of further developing them. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih reconfirmed the YAR's constant stand supporting our Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Action To Remove 'Arafat as PLO Chairman Reported

GF271734 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 27 Dec 83 p 1

["Exclusive" report from Damascus]

[Text] Dr Samir Gawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF], has announced that the meetings of Palestinian leaders in Damascus during the past 3 days resulted in the dropping of 'Arafat as chairman of the PLO

Executive Committee.

In an exclusive statement to *AL-KHALIJ*, Dr Gawshah said that the Palestinian leaderships, which consists of Palestinian faction leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], As-Sa'iqah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], the leaders of the Fatah uprising, the PPSF, members of the PLO Executive Committee who are in Syria, and the chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC], are now studying the legal and constitutional measures to implement their decision.

The PPSF secretary general strongly criticized 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and said: This step confirms the deviation policy that 'Arafat has followed since his departure from Beirut.

"By violating the Palestine National Charter and the resolutions of the PNC, particularly those of the Algiers session, 'Arafat has lost his legitimacy in the PLO and all his responsibilities in it," Gawshah added.

Khalaf 'Frank Talks' With Tunesian Foreign Minister

LD271822 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi this morning conferred at the ministry with Mr Salah Khalaf, Abu Iyad, member of the PLO Executive Committee, who said that the encounter came in the context of an exchange of views on the latest development of the Palestinian question. Abu Iyad stressed that his talks with Beji Caid es-Sebsi were frank, clear, and serious in view of the situation. He lauded Tunisia's support for the Palestinian revolution. He also stressed the identity of views between the two sides.

PLO Delegation Meets Egyptian Prime Minister

JN271241 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Talks took place in Cairo yesterday between Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din and a Palestinian delegation which included Zuhdi al-Khadra and Sa'id Kamal. According to Palestinian sources, the talks dealt with the results of last Thursday's meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat and the possibility of granting the PLO diplomatic status in Cairo at the beginning of the new year. A Palestinian official who attended the meeting said that Egypt is giving all necessary support to the Palestinians in their struggle to gain the right to self-determination.

Reaction to Current Palestinian Developments

George Habash Interview

JN232035 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Interview with PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris and its chief editor Antoine Abu Samra in the studio carried within the weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow" on 23 December — recorded]

[Text] [Louis Faris] Dr George Habash, yesterday you said that what Yasir 'Arafat embarked upon was a deviation if not treason. My question is in two parts: Does this mean that your personal relations with Yasir 'Arafat have been severed, andwhen you call for the dismissal of Yasir 'Arafat, what is the mechanism of this dismissal?

[George Habash] First of all, regarding the statement and its contents, it means a specific stand on Yasir 'Arafat as an individual and as chairman of the PLO. I hope that it is clear, particularly to our masses in the occupied territories, that this stand on Yasir 'Arafat does not mean any change in the stand of the PFLP on Palestinian national unity, the importance of this national unity, or the importance of our great concern for the issue of Palestinian national Unity.

Yasir 'Arafat is an individual. It is true that he is the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. However, the PLO is an organization for all the Palestinian people, who paid for it with their blood. Consequently, the PLO is not the property of Yasir 'Arafat. When he clearly deviates from and violates the recent PNC decisions, this means that he no longer represents the PLO. This is what has been dictated to us by this stand of Yasir 'Arafat. This does not mean that this is the stand of the Fatah Central Committee, and it does not mean a new stand on national unity. This is a stand on Yasir 'Arafat, who according to statements by his brothers in the Central Committee, took this step individually. The Fatah Central Committee is not responsible for this step. This is as far as the first part of your question is concerned.

Regarding the second part of the question, it is natural for us to try to dismiss Yasir 'Arafat through the constitutional and democratic channels. Yasir 'Arafat was elected by the Executive Committee and I do not imagine that after Yasir 'Arafat's attempt to involve the Palestinian revolution in the Camp David camp he will be given a vote of confidence by the Executive Committee members. After the Executive Committee comes the PLO Central Council, and although it is a consultative body, its opinion will have a great value on this issue. Finally, comes the PNC. I am confident of the stand of the members of the Executive Committee, the Central Council, and the PNC because the Palestinian people are strugglers who cannot possibly accept such deviation. I greatly hope that we will succeed in dismissing

'Arafat through this democratic method. Of course, this method must be accompanied by popular struggle, particularly by the Palestinians inside and everywhere. This is an opportunity for me to say to our Palestinians inside, whose conditions I realize, that the PFLP dealt with national unity with great responsibility and infinite patience and that our concern for Palestinian national unity dictated to us this stand through 'Arafat's visit because Palestinian national unity cannot be based on Camp David or deviation.

[Antoine Abu Samra] Dr George Habash, after hearing your answers to the questions of colleague Louis Faris in the Syrian capital, I would like to ask you some questions in light of your answers to the questions of my colleague. First of all, as far I understood, the Executive Committee, then the PLO Central Council, and after that the PNC must all meet to prosecute and judge Yasir 'Arafat. You said, literally, that Yasir 'Arafat no longer represents the PLO. However, a short while ago, I asked PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum the same question, but he rules out the convocation of the PNC at present and believes that if it is held it willthreaten to divide the Palestinian ranks. How can we prosecute Yasir 'Arafat and at the same time rule out the convocation of the PNC?

[Habash] First of all, I would like to draw attention to a point that I consider important. This point is that our brothers in the Fatah Central Committee could save us from this dilemma in which the Palestinian arena is passing in light of this visit that violates PNC resolutions. Yasir 'Arafat was elected to the Executive Committee and he is its chairman because he represents the biggest Palestinian organization in the Palestinian arena, namely, the Fatah movement. Now, Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and the Central Committee itself say that this behavior is of an individual nature. The brothers in the Central Committee are faced with a test: They have either made such statements to absorb the popular indignation at such a step, or they mean what they are saying. If this is a maneuver, undoubtedly the state of affairs in the Palestinian arena will become more complicated. However, if Brother Abu Iyad and other Central Committee members are serious in condemning this step and regard it as a serious and individual step, they must adopt the appropriate measures. This means Yasir 'Arafat should not be their candidate. In such a case, they can save the Palestinian arena from many embarassments. However, if they do not adopt such measures, then of course the issue of the PNC, according to my answer, will be a final move. Before that, the Executive Committee must meet to judge 'Arafat and then the PLO Central Council meets, and after that the effective circles in the Palestinian arena express their opinion on this step. Following that we face the issue of the PNC.

[Abu Samra] Dr George Habash, this means that you are expecting the Fatah Central Committee to dismiss Yasir 'Arafat although Abu Iyad yesterday said that differences do not mean dissension within the Fatah movement. Therefore, we cannot expect the Central Committee now to dismiss Yasir 'Arafat, and therefore, the Executive Committee, the PLO Central Council, and the PNC must meet. Here we have a vicious circle: 'Arafat's critics noted the violation just like the policemen who notes a violation and the court issues a judgment because it has the authoritiy. But it seems that the Palestinian are not ready to do so and may not be ready to in the near future. What is the solution?

[Habash] I hope that your conclusion regarding the stand of the brothers in the Fatah movement is not correct. I hope that their stand is not a mere maneuver. I hope that they will realize their great responsibility at this stage. However, there is no doubt that what you are pointing out is a possibility and, subsequently, we could face such a situation. We only have two options, however, and in the end we will succeed whichever course we adopt. We cannot forget the blood of martyrs who fell over 18 years and leave Yasir 'Arafat to control that blood and end up with the Palestinian revolution in the lap of Camp David and the U.S. scheme. We will adopt democratic and constitutional methods. This is our stand. However, our masses will find all the means to preserve their revolution.

[Abu Samra] Dr George Habash, my final question is to you and I will also direct it to the other brothers: the judgments, and criticism against Yasir 'Arafat because he visited Cairo came before he said why he visited Cairo and what the results were. Do you believe that Abu 'Ammar embarked on this step just [illegible] that without prior consideration, although he is known for making very thorough considerations? What is your opinion?

[Habash] The issue of Husni Mubarak's regime and the stand on this regime took a great deal of our discussion during the 16th session of the PNC. In the end, and following lengthy and arduous discussion, we reached the decision which clearly defines the relation with Husni Mubarak's regime. If Yasir 'Arafat has any reasons or viewpoints, then out of respect for his brothers and comrades, he should have consulted them before making this move. He could have, if he had the least bit of concern for responsibility at this crucial stage, the minimum of discipline, and the minimum of brotherly feeling toward those who fought with him, come and proposed any new idea in any new direction before he individually embarked on such a dirty move. This step is totally unjustifiable regardless of the reasons or viewpoints. 'Arafat, even if he used to study issues carefully in the past, will realize that in this particular move he has made a grave mistake. Our Palestinian masses will not forgive. Our masses are strugglers. The PLO is stronger than Yasir 'Arafat. The PLO is stronger than all leaders. Yasir 'Arafat and others will realize that the struggle of the Palestinian people will continue without leniency or deviation.

[Abu Samra] Thank you, Dr George Habash. At any rate, I will ask Abu Iyad several questions shortly to learn the stand of the Fatah Central Committee. I would have liked to ask Abu 'Ammar some questions, however, he is on the open sea, on the Red Sea now. However, before making any judgment in our capacity as journalists, we must first hear what the accused has to say. Thank you, Dr George Habash.

Fatah's Abu Iyad Interview

JN232130 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1816 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Telephone interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Iyad, by Antoine Abu Samrah, Radio Monte Carlo chief editor, on 23 December, carried within the "It Happened Tomorrow" program — place not specified]

[Text] [Antoine Abu Samrah] Brother Abu Iyad, you were the first to open fire on Abu 'Ammar — if I may say so. Immediately afterward, the Fatah Central Committee followed your steps. George Habash told us a short while ago that if the attack on Yasir 'Arafat is justified, why does the Fatah Central Committee not dismiss 'Arafat? He added that you may have opened fire in order to contain the crisis and keep it within the Fatah movement.

[Khalaf] First of all, I did not open fire on Yasir 'Arafat because Abu 'Ammar is my brother [words indistinct]. I criticized the visit because, first, it was a negative action. None of the Central Committee, the PLO Executive Committee, or the Palestinian forces supporting us was consulted about this visit. Second, I think that this visit contravened all the PNC resolutions, which stipulated that there should be no contacts with the Egyptian regime except when it moves away from Camp David. Third, we are in a stage in which we need to reunite all the Palestinian factions and establish a Palestinian national unity, especially after the Tripoli battle sorted out those criminals who killed the Palestinian people and those hesitants who once said words in favor of the Palestinian struggle and unity and once took advice from the regimes that are plotting against the Palestinian revolution. In view of these three reasons, I considered this visit a wrong one in terms of its timing and the fact that it contravenes the PNC resolutions.

As for George Habash's words, this method of casting doubt is no longer useful in the Palestinian arena. We do not expect George Habash or any other to teach us how to behave regarding our problems. Dr George Habash has adopted several vacillating stands toward the Tripoli events. He did not raise a strong voice condemning this Palestinian blood that was shed in Tripoli. This applies to others who are now shedding false tears for the PLO and the visit. They also did not adopt the required stand when Lebanon was invaded and the Tripoli camps were shelled. Let him cast doubts as he wishes. We stood against this visit, and this problem will be dealt with by all the Fatah institutions. Abu 'Ammar will be taken to task for his individual behavior through the legitimate channels.

As for dismissals, our past battle was one with the legitimate institutions. No Palestinian faction, individual, or leader should appoint himself as judge and say that this is a traitor and that one is not. The visit was condemned by Fatah and its Central Committee, which is the highest authority. The Fatah movement will continue to complete all the bases on which its institutions are based in order to judge Yasir 'Arafat for the mistake he committed. I do not think the matter is that of dismissal or non-dismissal so that Dr George Habash would believe us. I do not think that we are required to present an account of our actions [words indistinct].

[Abu Samrah] Brother Abu Iyad, information available to press circles indicates that several contacts were made with Abu 'Ammar when he was at sea opposite the Egyptian lands. Several quarters tried to convince him not to visit Cairo. He visited Cairo, nevertheless. What is the story of this visit and why, do you think, Abu 'Ammar made the visit?

[Khalaf] In principle, all our opinions in the Fatah Central Committee were unanimous in considering this visit a mistake regardless of Brother Abu 'Ammar's reasons for it. This visit contravenes all the PNC and Fatah resolutions. It is even detrimental to relations with the Egyptian people. A meeting can be held in the Palestinian arena by the Palestinian institutions on the reasons that prompted Abu 'Ammar to go to Cairo. These institutions can either approve or disapprove of his visit. The matter has become sensitive for us. No Palestinian leader can tolerate the unilateral action of any leader, be it Abu 'Ammar or anyone else. All of us must follow and respect these institutions. Otherwise, our words and defense of these legitimate institutions will be incorrect. Therefore, I think the visit was wrong and out of place.

[Abu Samrah] Abu Iyad: You have personally known Abu 'Ammar for a long time. You also know that he makes a thousand calculations before embarking on any step. He embarked on this step while expecting these reactions from all sides. Do you not think that after the Tripoli siege Abu 'Ammar decided to adopt a new trend in his actions?

[Khalaf] This would be so if Abu 'Ammar was the only one in this revolution. However, since Abu 'Ammar has his brothers, he was not supposed to embark on this unilateral action. The Tripoli battle as well as the battle of the Arab trusteeship over the Palestinian decision and the battle of the Tripoli siege are not the battles of Abu 'Ammar alone. They are the battles of us all. It is true that we were not in Tripoli, but we were besieged with Abu 'Ammar. Consequently, we were with him [words indistinct]. He should not embark at all on such a big step without consulting his brothers. This is a blow to the legitimate institutions and he must account for his action. This indicates that our logic [words indistinct]. This is a reply to the dissidents who tried through their connections with some Arab regimes to appoint themselves as judges over Abu 'Ammar and both the Fatah and PLO institutions. we had to resort to legitimacy in order to reply to this stand. Therefore, our position in the Central Committee on Abu 'Ammar's visit was unanimous. We do not adopt our stands for the sake of someone or for the sake of absorbing the indignation of anyone. This is our firm and principled stand. We abide by the PNC resolutions. Abu 'Ammar has been largely mistaken in his calculations. He made a mistake even against himself. Regardless of all pressures [words indistinct] Abu 'Ammar should not have made this mistake, which affects us all [words indistinct].

[Abu Samrah] Abu Iyad, was yesterday's statement by the Fatah Central Committee approved by all members?

[Khalaf] All members. Even Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], who are still at sea, sent us their approval of this statement. All our brothers in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia [words indistinct] signed this statement. As I have already told you, Abu Jihad and Abu al-Hawl cabled us from the

ship, supporting this statement and denouncing Brother Abu 'Ammar's unilateral action.

[Abu Samrah] Abu Iyad, do I understand from your statements that you have noted Abu 'Ammar's violations, but that you do not want to pass sentence at present? Are you waiting for a meeting with Abu 'Ammar to tell you why he visited Cairo?

[Khalaf] That is true. I believe that Abu 'Ammar has the right to tell us about the circumstances that led him to this mistake. We are also entitled to discuss these circumstances with him before passing our verdict on this behavior. We shall know if this behavior is a new political [words indistinct], as you said a short while ago, or a transient whim which took place under the pressure and atmosphere of the siege. We must give Abu 'Ammar the chance to explain this. Despite everything and despite all voices, Abu 'Ammar is a struggler who has been struggling for 30 years in this arena. We should not wipe out this history for a mistake he committed. He must defend himself before the legitimate institutions of both Fatah and the PLO. A decision can then be issued, and it will be a just one.

[Abu Samrah] Abu Iyad, in brief, you want to say: Let us hear the defendant's words before the verdict is passed. Thank you, Abu Iyad.

PNC's Al-Fahum Interview

JN232215 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1749 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Interview with PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum held on 23 December in Damascus by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Louis Faris and its chief editor, Antoine Abu Samrah, in the studio and carried within the weekly program "It happend Tomorrow" — recorded]

[Text] [Louis Faris] Brother Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the PNC: My question is the following: The Cairo paper *AL-AHRAM* today published a statement by 'Arafat saying that he intends to reorganize the PLO and summon the PNC for a meeting in Algiers in February for this purpose. 'Arafat adds that the reorganization will be on the basis of the various stands made by the Palestinian factions and leaders during his siege in Tripoli. What is your opinion of this?

[Khalid al-Fahum] First, regarding the summoning of the PNC to meet in Algiers, I say that in my capacity as the PNC speaker I have no knowledge whatever of this. I have not been informed on this issue by either the Algerian president or the Algerian Government. Furthermore, summoning the PNC for a meeting is not the responsibility of the PLO Executive Committee chairman. The PNC can be summoned upon a unanimous call by the Executive Committee to hold an extraordinary session; upon a call by one quarter of the total PNC membership; or upon a call by the PNC speaker. Therefore, I have not been informed of this and I have no knowledge about what was published in *AL-AHRAM*. As for the second part of the question, namely the reorganization of the PLO, I say that the PLO needs to be reorganized and needs to cling to its charter and the resolutions of the various PNC sessions. Both the charter and the PNC resolutions do not allow any member, particularly if he is a PLO Executive Committee member, to violate the PNC resolutions. The charter and the PNC resolutions are the basis of our action.

[Antoine Abu Samrah] After answering the question of my colleague Louis Faris, who is sitting next to you in the Syrian capital, I would like to ask you some questions, particularly after the statment you made yesterday in which you said that Yasir 'Arafat has violated the PNC resolutions. You said verbatim in your statement: Any PLO Executive Committee member who does not abide by the PNC resolutions loses his competence and legitimacy. Do you mean that by his visit to Cairo, Abu 'Ammar has lost his competence and legitimacy? What is the authority that confirms your argument?

[Al-Fahum] The PLO's regulations are very clear in this regard. If you consult the regulations, you will find that they define the Executive Committee's work as the authority responsible for implementing the policy adopted by the PNC. As for the meeting between brother Abu 'Ammar and President Husni Mubarak in Cairo, it is certainly a very clear and frank violation of the PNC resolutions which asserted in its last three sessions that the CampDavid policy and agreements work for the liquidation of the Palestinian cause and for depriving the Palestinian people of their rights to repatriation to their land, to self-determination, and to the establishment of their own independent state. This is clear to everyone. As for taking 'Arafat to task, this is the job of the PLO institutions; namely, the PLO Executive Committee, the PLO Central Council, and the PNC.

[Abu Samrah] Then, my understanding is that 'Arafat's trial has started. However, when a trial begins, there should be sessions. What will happen in the first session?

[Al-Fahum] Consutlations are under way now to study this step, this violation of the PNC resolutions, and this visit which took place without the knowledge of any member of the Executive Committee. This visit is another violation in itself. It is a violation to make a political decision without consultating the PLO Executive Committee. Therefore, there are consultations under way to adopt the appropriate measures. So far, as I said earlier, consultations are under way and we hope to preserve the PLO's unity and the unity of opinion among the influential forces in the PLO as a prelude to preserving the PLO's unity.

[Abu Samrah] In your opinion, if the PNC is summoned for a meeting in any Arab capital, what will be the voting within the PNC?

[Al-Fahum] Actually, it is difficult for me to answer such a question because the issue here is a matter of a violation of the PNC resolutions. Every single member of the PNC is responsible and should sincerely defend its resolutions. If the PNC is summoned to meet now, I say that this issue needs more study because holding a PNC session in an atmosphere of crisis may lead to a split in the PLO. I am afraid that in that case there would be two PLO's, which means the end of the two organizations and the end of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

[Abu Samrah] Do you rule out the possible convocation of the

PNC in the near future?

[Al-Fahum] My personal opinion is that I do not favor the PNC's immediate convocation because there is an atmosphere of crisis now, which will lead to a split. However, the first and last opinion is that of the PNC members and the PLO's responsible institutions. I rule out the possibility of convening the PNC in the near future.

[Abu Samrah] My last question: Many other Arab officials visited Cairo before Yasir 'Arafat and there was no uproar similar to the one we are witnessing today. How can you explain this?

[Al-Fahum] First, the PNC resolutions were not adopted out of hostility toward Egypt and the Egyptian people. Those resolutions were adopted because the Camp David policy and agreement harm the core of the Palestinian cause. These policies and agreements are a liquidation of the Palestinian cause. Furthermore, we all know that President Husni Mubarak has inherited a policy designed by his successor Anwar as-Sadat. We all know the results of the Camp David policy. We, the Palestinians, have suffered much from this policy. What is happening in Lebanon is not isolated from the Camp David policy and agreements. All the Arab countries are threatened by the Camp David policy, which means falling into the laps of Zionism and the United States. The Egyptian regime and President Hsuni Mubarak still accept the Camp David policy and agreements. President Mubarak also agrees on President Reagan's plan and the 17 May agreement in Lebanon. All these things are absolutely hostile to the Palestinian people interests, hopes, and aspirations. President Mubarak could be tied to these agreements, yet we were very clear: We must work to cancel these agreements. After the Baghdad summit, only President Numayri and Sultan Qabus visited Egypt. I do not want Brother Yasir 'Arafat to be like either President Numayri or Sultan Qabus.

[Abu Samrah] I will ask another question. I will address this question to all Palestinian leaders. It is known that Abu 'Ammar makes a thousand calculations before every step he intends to take. Why do you think he visited Cairo knowing that he could expect all this commotion?

[Al-Fahum] He certainly makes calculations. As you know, it is really suprising why Brother Abu 'Ammar paid this visit to Husni Mubarak, who agrees on the Reagan plan, the Camp David agreements, and the 17 May agreement. I was surprised that he did such a thing, particularly since he did not consult with theExecutive Committee. Our leadership is collective, as you may know, or it must be a collective leadership according to the PLO's regulations. It was certainly an independent action. Why did he take it? I hope that the question will be addressed to him.

[Abu Samrah] I wanted to address this question to him but it is impossible to contact him, since he is in the middle of the Red Sea. However, this question will be addressed to him, maybe, during "It Happened Tomorrow" next week. Thank you.

[Al-Fahum] Thank you.

Khalil Al-Wazir Statement

LD270003 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], member of the Central Committee and Fatah deputy commander in chief of the forces of the Palestine revolution, made a statement to the correspondent of Voice of Palestine, the voice of the Palestine revolution, in which he asserted that the departure of the Palestinian fighters from Tripoli was as a result of a plot executed by both the Syrian and the Libyan regimes and by a handful of the agents to liquidate the Palestine revolution, abort the gains and achievements of our Palestinian people and impose a tutelage on our independent Palestinian decisionmaking. Brother Abu Jihad said in his statement that the Palestine revolution, with its heroic fighters and historic leadership, faced the plot of the forces of the enemies and the agents who decided to oust the revolution, with its fighters and leaders, from the Lebanese territories, as they had ousted it from the Syrian territories.

Replying to a question on the rumors being spread by the hostile forces as part of their fierce onslaught against the Palestine revolution to the effect that by the departure of the Palestine revolution from Tripoli the rifles of the revolutionaries will lose contact with the Palestinian land and therefore discard the military option, Brother Abu Jihad said:

[Begin recording] [Khalil al-Wasir] Our being far away from the occupied areas will affect our struggle. True, it will increase the obstacles; it will increase our hardships, but as I said, wherever our people are there is the possibility of action against this enemy. It should be noted that our people in the occupied land are playing a prominent role in the military and the political struggle. The heroic military operations during the past weeks increased within the occupied land and in the areas behind the enemy lines in Lebanon too. The march of the armed struggle will never stop, under any circumstances. Let those who fear that this will affect our armed struggle be reassured that this revolution was born carrying the flag of the armed struggle and its march will never stop from its armed struggle under any circumstances because this is the base from which we move in all our political and military triumphs. Our armed struggle will escalate further. At no time we will be blackmailed by the Zionist enemy or by Arab regimes to see this or that base of ours attacked. A heavy burden has been lifted from our shoulders which had always been a source of blackmail, the burden which existed in the neighboring areas. But now we will be more able to move and we will give more and more intensely. God willing, everyone will hear about the escalation in the operations of our armed struggle, regardless of the obstacles, particularly from within our occupied land where our generous people are, our people who make sacrifices and who are confronting and giving examples daily of the struggle to confront this ferocious Zionist enemy whose tyranny and occupation we must not forget. We must not forget the ordeals that these people are experiencing inside the occupied land. We must not forget the sufferings of our people at the hands of the Israeli occupation, no matter how much injustice we face from our Arab brothers, particularly the injustices we faced from the Syrian regime. We also do not forget the sufferings of this people inside the occupied land, because when we confront this enemy our

people are confronting this enemy on behalf of our Arab nationthroughout its countries.

[Correspondent] Brother Abu Jihad, following the departure of the Palestinian fighters from Tripoli, our brother leader Abu 'Ammar went to Egypt at the invitation he received from the parties and the progressive national forces and from Egyptian national organizations, particularly from the Egytpian delegation which visited Tripoli and broke the siege and arrived and met the leadership of the Palestine revolution; what are the views of Brother Abu Jihad on this visit paid by our brother leader to Egypt?

[Abu Jihad] Following the departure from Tripoli, we were on board the ships and the visit of Brother Abu 'Ammar took place. Immediately a stand was made by the Central Committee of the Fatah movement. This stand was made public. We stated in this stand that this decision was taken by brother Abu 'Ammar on his part and we anticipated a meeting in the near future. This meeting will take place so that we can understand the aspects of this event and its motives and why it took place, and accoordingly there will within the next 2 days a meeting of the Central Committee of the Fatah movement in the presence of brother Abu 'Ammar to understand the aspect of this step in detail, and in the light of this a comprehensive decision will be adopted by the Central Committee defining the situation in a clear manner in respect of this event and step.

However, we also say that despite what happened we must not forget the nature of the motives that prompted this move. We must not forget the nature of the crime committed by the Syrian regime and what it did to the Palestine revolution. We must not forget the attempt by this Syrian regime to dominate the Palestine revolution and the attempt to control its independent national decisionmaking and the extent of the crime by a regime that drove Brother Abu 'Ammar to this step. Regardless of the circumstances, the Palestine revolution will be totally loyal and Brother Abu 'Ammar and everyone else will be loyal to the protection of the Palestine revolution, to protect its decision, so that there is nothing but loyalty to the Palestine cause and to the service of the Palestinian cause and the Arab cause above all; there will be no deviators at all among the ranks of this revolution. We tell those who tried to call this treason, quoting from the statement of the Central Committee: Where were you when the high treason was committed in striking at the Palestine revolution, in massacring the Palestine revolution and in attacking the Palestine revolution. Its loyal leadership, institutions and cadres, are loyal to the principles of this revolution and to the message of this revolution and will be faithful to its martyrs, faithful to the aims of this revolution and to the preservation of its political march and its sound national political course regardless of the circumstances and conditions surrounding it.

[Correspondent] Brother Abu Jihad, one last question: They say that the revolution has set sail and that the Palestinian question has set sail for an unknown future; how does the deputy commander in chief of the Palestine revolutionary forces see the future of the Palestinian struggle and the Palestinian question in the light of all the conditions and the developments that have occurred and are occurring in both the Palestinian and the Arab arenas? Are there any solutions to be presented shortly or not?

[Al-Wazir] What we must assert is the fact that those who proclaimed this revolution do not at all think that its road is laid with roses and aromatic plants. All those who have lived through revolutions know the road of this revolution is difficult, full of thorns and obstacles; the journey is long. This road is being built always with the blood of the martyrs, and sacrifices, sufferings, and pain are our provisions in the march of this revolution. Therefore when we face what we face on the road of the struggle, there is a basic principle that we will always have in sight: not to despair, because there is no despair in the march of the revolutionaries. The will of the revolutionary must not be shaken no matter how fierce the obstacles become and no matter how much we are surrounded by dark clouds at one time or another; we must inevitably see the sunrise; this is our belief always. Therefore, while we are marching, we are primarily reassured that we must not abandon our armed struggle. It is the basic platform through which our triumph will be achieved, through which and from which we move politically in all conditions and in all arenas. From this platform of struggle and sacrifices our political moves will be made so that the world can hear our voice everywhere, so that the sympathies of this world will rally around our cause, so that the world will back our side of the struggle. Since we possess the will and determination and since we possess the persistence to march and since we do not despair when we see obstacles, we are confident that the dawn of this revolution is undoubtedly coming.

Here in Algeria the people are more aware of this. They encountered many obstacles. The world became very dark at one time or another in the struggle, but their belief was radiant. Therefore, despite the difficulty of the road and despite its roughness and despite the darkness that surrounded their struggle, they saw the dawn, they saw the brilliant sun, the sun of independence, freedom and liberation, and achieved and realized what they wished for and what they aspired for and what they struggled for. Therefore for us in the Palestine revolution, no matter how long the march takes, what is required is just patience, patience. This is always the provision of the revolutionaries, it is their meal morning and evening and we do not possess anything else. This is what we learned from all the revolutions and this is how we learned our lessons in this revolution and how we learned from our experiences in this revolution and from the sacrifices of our martyrs and our faithful brothers, the fighters. We therefore have no choice. Is it possible to obtain a homeland without sacrifices? Naturally not. Without suffering, without sacrifices and without hardships and without finding many obstacles on the road and problems, naturally not. Therefore we are confident that the dawn of this revolution is coming no matter how long it takes and no matter how dark the night gets, it is very very near. They see it far but we see it near, and it is near, god willing.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] signs of the future, is there a call for the convening of a Palestine National Council or institutions of the Palestine revolution for instance?

[Abu Jihad] In fact, in the wake of the departure from Tripoli we shall immediately work for the convening of a series of meetings, starting first with the leadership institutions. The Central Committee of the Fatah movement will meet after 2 or 3 days, to be followed by meetings among a number of Palestinian leadership groups and then a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee

which will set forth the outlines of future moves for convening enlarged legislative meetings of the PLO Central Council. This will be followed by the PLO National Council. This is the list of meetings that will take place within the next 8 weeks, and God willing the first of these meetings will start within the next 2 days. Through these meetings the program of action after Tripoli will be drawn up and the course will be set whether on the platform of the military action or the platform of the political action. [end recording]

[Announcer] This, brethren, was the text of the statement made by Brother Abu Jihad to the radio correspondent.

Fatah's Al-Hasan Comments

LD232032 Kuwait KUNA in English 1405 GMT 23 dec 83

[Text] Tunis, Dec 23 (KUNA) — Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan criticized here Friday the calls voiced by some leaders of Palestinian commando groups for dismissing PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat after his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak Thursday saying the issue should be tackled only through the legitimate channels of Fatah movement and the PLO.

Al-Hasan told KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY "leaving aside angry calls, 'Arafat is still the legitimate chairman of the PLO executive Committee and general commander of the Palestinian revolution forces and the only way to deal with him is within that framework until a resolution concerning that visit is taken by the Fatah Central Committee and the Palestine National Council."

The PLO official said Palestinian leaders "should not react angrily but should carefully study the issue so that their decisions be reasonable and serving the higher interests."

He cited that the Fatah Central Committee issued a well-studied statement in which it considered 'Arafat responsible for the results of the visit because he had not consulted with any committee member regarding that visit.

He added that the statement had yet affirmed that a final communique will be made after studying all circumstances and results of the visit.

Al-Hasan was one of five central committee members who signed here Thursday a statement dissociating themselves from any commitments that might result from 'Arafat's meeting with Mubarak.

Al-Hasan denied that the Fatah Central Committee is split on how to deal with 'Arafat saying that "all Central Committee members are maintaining the same stand toward that issue and all other questions taking into consideration to higher interest."

He affirmed that the committee's statement had "expressed the views of all the Central Committee members."

Al-Hasan disclosed that the committee had cabled its office in Jidda, Saudi Arabia, to inform 'Arafat immediately on his arrival there to fly to Tunis for a meeting with the committee members to brief them on the circumstances of his visit to Cairo.

Asked about reports on 'Arafat's acceptance to give a mandate to King Husayn of Jordan to negotiate a settlement for peace in the Middle East with Israel on basis of U.S. President Ronald Reagn plan, Al-Hasan described such a move as nonsense because "King Husayn had not asked for such a mandate and we had not offered it."

Al-Hasan disclosed that during a meeting with King Husayn he asked the Jordanian monarch why he conveyed to the Americans his rejection to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians even if the Palestine National Council gave him the mandate. King Husayn replied at that time that if he managed to restore 99 percent of the West Bank and one percent remained with the Israelis" there would be those who would charge that I had squandered the Palestinian and Arab rights."

Al-Hasan said that King husayn had once affirmed during a meeting with 'Arafat that any federation or confederation between the east and west banks should be undertaken by referendum.

ALF Statement Reported

JN251858 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] The Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has strongly condemned some of those who claim to be Palestinians for their attempt to cover the crimes of their ally, the Syrian regime, and to justify their conspiratorial, treansonous, and defeatist positions during the Tripoli events and before these events. In a statement issued today, the Central Committee affirmed that those people are trying to complete the Zionist role drawn up for their groups to disrupt the PLO unity, destroy the revolution and the independent Palestinian decisionmaking, and obliterate the features of the crime that the Zionists and Hafiz al-Asad's regime committed, a crime whose victims' blood has not yet dried.

The statement also called for discussion of the issues at dispute within the framework of Palestinian legitimacy, where all positions can be defined in an atmosphere of responsibility and democracy far from sensationalism, which would harm the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people's cause and weaken the PLO. The ALF also stressed that ending dealings with the Syrian regime, which constitutes the main danger that threatens the revolution and its unity, is one of the urgent tasks to be achieved in order to prevent the effect of that regime and its tools [word indistinct] and to foil the political campaign aimed at completing the military campaign that the city of Tripoli witnessed. By such a campaign, they want to destroy the PLO and deepen the split within the PLO and among the Palestinian people's masses.

The ALF also stressed the need to abide by the principles of pan-Arab work, support Iraq against the Iranian enemy, and restore Egypt to the trench of Arab struggle and to consider this as a national and pan-Arab duty that the current challenges necessitate. It also asserted that the continuation of the Palestinian revolution and its safety are based on the Arab situation, and

that many events have taken place in the Arab arena as a result of the continued aggression against Iraq and the absence of Egypt.

Israeli Patrol Attacked Near Sidon; 1 Killed

JN271801 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] A group of Palestinian and Lebanese forces attacked a Zionist military patrol north of Sidon in southern Lebanon at dawn today. The attack, which was carried out with rockets and machine guns, killed or wounded many Zionsit soldiers. A Zionist officer was among those killed.

According to reports from southern Lebanon, gunfire and several explosions were heard last night. The Zionist forces cordoned off several streets both inside Sidon and in the surrounding area, and arrested several citizens. The enemy forces' command admitted that four soldiers were wounded in two other attacks on Zionist patrols yesterday. The group returned safely to base.

Hebron Attack

JN261814 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] A group of our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland has used hand grenades to carry out a daring attack on the Usama ibn Munqidh School, which is occupied by a group of Zionist settlers in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron. They killed or wounded several Zionist settlers. Admitting this operation, the Zionist enemy's radio claimed that no one was hurt. The radio added that the Zionist forces imposed a curfew on the old quarter of the city. The curfew is still in effect.

Another incendiary bomb was hurled at a Zionist military camp in 'Askar Camp. A large group of occupation forces cordoned off the area and asked the citizens to gather in the camp's main field for an investigation.

ICO Foreign Ministers To Meet 12 Jan

GF240609 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Rabat, 23 Dec (WAKH) — ICO Secretary General Habib Chatti has said it has been officially decided that the ICO foreign ministers conference will be held in Rabat on 12 January and that it will last for 3 days.

In a telephone conversation with him by WAKH, Chatti said the ICO summit will be held as soon as the foreign ministers conference ends on 16 January in the Moroccan city of Casablanca.

Asked whether Egypt would attend this conference, Chatti said: The secretariat general will extend an official invitation and it remains for Egypt to decide on participation. He continued: I believe Egypt will attend the foreign ministers conference, but its participation in the summit will be determined during the foreign ministers preparatory conference. Chatti did not deny or confirm that there are pressures by some Arab countries against Egyptian participation in the conference. However, he said: Egypt has the right to attend the ICO summit and we should realizethat the Arabs are not the majority in the Islamic countries.

On Iran, Chatti said: Iran will attend this conference and the conference will do its utmost to find a settlement to the Gulf war. This conference is an opportunity to push the peace process strongly forward (?for all Muslims) in the world.

'Arafat Popularity in West Bank Increasing

JN280955 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Dec 83 pp 1, 23

[Text] Amman — Reports from the occupied territories indicate that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's popularity is increasing. The citizens there believe that Abu 'Ammar is the Palestinian leader who expresses the Palestinian people's hopes and aspirations and understands the reality of the Palestinian people's circumstances inside the occupied homeland and the camps in the diaspora which are exposed to continued violations, expulsion, and murder.

These reports show that the citizens have expressed their confidence in 'Arafat through various means and that the kinfolk there did not respond to the Syrian-Libyan propaganda campaign that seeks to affect the Palestinian legitimacy. This is because they have lost confidence in the Syrian and Libyan leaderships after they relinquished the Palestinian resistance during its steadfastness in Beirut and evacuated it from Tripoli through the Palestinian trojan horse that is represented by the dissidents.

These reports say that the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland wonder about the stand of the Palestinian radicals who criticized 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and ask where those radicals were when the Israeli and Syrian stands were harmonious regarding dealing a blow to the Palestinian resistance in Tripoli.

These reports express the Palestinian revolution's conscience and explain that the Palestinian people trust only Yasir 'Arafat's leadership and consider the PLO's present leadership as the historical leadership that expresses their aspirations.

BAHRAIN

Information Minister on Support for Kuwait

GF231030 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 23 Dec (WAKH) — Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad has expressed Bahrain's sincere support for Kuwait under all circumstances and that Bahrain harbors fraternal feelings for Kuwait in times of adversity as well as prosperity.

In a statement in today's issue of the Kuwaiti newspaper *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM*, Al-Mu'ayyad praised the Kuwaiti security organs which had been able to control things "decisively, firmly, and quickly against those who disrupted its security." He strongly denounced these incidents. "Kuwait's security is ours, and that of all GCC countries. Our people in Bahrain expressed sincere feelings and responded to their brothers from the very first moment of the regrettable incidents, which they strongly denounced. This is the very least a brother can do for his brother," he said.

He also praised the firm and continued relations and cooperation between Bahrain and Kuwait, particularly cooperation in the information field. "We are converting this cooperation and these feelings to tangible reality with spontaneity, fraternal spirit, and customary love," Al-Mu'ayyad said.

KUWAIT

SFRY's Mojsov Visits, Leaves for Jordan

Meets With Sabah al-Ahmad

LD251556 Kuwait KUNA in English 1440 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 25 (KUNA) — Deputy Premier Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad held a conference here Sunday with Yugoslav Foreign Minister Lazar Mojsov who arrived here yesterday on a private visit.

The talks, held during a working luncheon thrown by Shaykh Sabah in honor of the visiting guest, discussed bilateral relations and the current Arab and international developments.

The banquet was attended by undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry Rashid ar-Rashid, departments directors at the ministry and members of the Yugoslav Embassy in Kuwait.

Mojsov arrived here from Aden on a two-day visit.

More on Talks

LD261312 Kuwait KUNA in English 1150 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 26 (KUNA) — Yugoslav Foreign Minister Lazar Majsov left here for Amman today following a two-day private visit during which he held talks with senior Kuwaiti officials.

Before his departure, Mojsov met with Kuwait's deputy premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah. Official sources told KUNA that the talks had centered on bilateral relations between the two countries, members of the Nonaligned Movement, the latest Arab developments — especially those related to the Palestine question — and other world issues of mutual interest.

No further details were given, however.

The talks were attended by Kuwait's Foreign Ministry undersecretary Rashid ar-Rashid and the Yugoslav charge d'affaires here, Milan Leskovac, who along with Shaykh Sabah saw Majsov off at the airport.

Interior Minister on Security in Gulf States

GF261718 Manama WAKH in English 1525 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Dec (WAKH) — Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad as-Sabah affirmed that security coordination among AGCC states was progressing in accordance with planned targets.

He told the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS* that all interior ministers in sisterly Gulf states are constantly informed of security developments.

Shaykh Nawwaf added that what affects Kuwait's security and stability will be reflected in all Arab Gulf countries. Shaykh Nawwaf expected that suspects rounded up following the explosion incidents in Kuwait two weeks ago will stand trial by early next week immediately after the state attorney concludes the interrogation.

The minister said that security men will continue combing various areas in Kuwait in search of any violators of security and stability.

We will not hesitate in applying appropriate rules on any individual regardless of his nationality or status, the minister pledged.

Kuwait was and will remain an oasis for security and stability Shaykh Nawwaf emphasized, and added that the country will continue hosting those who come in search of honorable work.

Asked about the smuggled weapons found with the suspects in Kuwait, the minister said that an investigation was underway.

ARAB TIMES Lauds 'Arafat Cairo Trip, Urges Unity

GF251057 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 24 Dec 83 p 6

[Opinion column by chief editor Ahmad as-Jarallah: "Arab Principles Are Threadbare"]

[Text] 'Arafat has visited Egypt. Well done! But why is there such a fuss? People say he exceeded Arab principles, but which principles are these? Basically, do we have principles to be kept? Arab principles are threadbare.

Decisions were taken against Egypt, others against the United States and others against Israel at the Baghdad conference when Arab countries boycotted Egypt. But the Arabs only applied the decisions against Egypt because they could do that, although they realized the importance of Egypt to them. They did not apply sanctions against the United States. When they attempted to harass Israel, it replied in good measure. They only boycotted Egypt because of principles. These principles are worn out as Iraq is at war with Iran, and there are Arabs who help Iran against Iraq. Sudan is suffering because its neighbors violate its borders, and who supports those neighbors? And they still talk about principles.

Achieving a unified policy is impossible, and having a unified policy to face the world is a miracle we cannot achieve, because we have no fixed principles. 'Arafat has gone to Egypt. He did not go to Tel Aviv, although it is an Arab land and he wants to regain it as he always says. He met Husni Mubarak, the president of an Arab country — not Begin or Shamir, but the Arab president of an Arab country which we have offended and we are still trying to end that offense. Let us wake up after 34 years, during which we have been killing each other instead of killing our enemies, and destroying our cities and economies instead of destroying the cities and economies of the enemy.

The world makes fun of our confused diplomacy. The diplomacy of the enemy has succeeded in dragging a big country, the United States, to support it and link interests, and to fight for it. The national interests of the U.S. are the same as those of Israel. We have been our own enemy for 34 years. In 1970, we destroyed Jordan, with no result, and in 1983 we destroyed Lebanon, also with no result. Now there is a big fuss just because 'Arafat reached Egypt. No one else has dared to do this, although all Arabs want a return to normal relations with Egypt — something which could have been achieved long ago. What will happen now that 'Arafat has left Tripoli, and who made him leave with his soldiers? After that we talk of principles and Arab values. Greeks and French, and Israel preceded the procession. The whole world has made fun of us, and that is enough. We should be ashamed of our discrimination. Egypt is the mother of the whole Arab world, and its president is an Arab. Israel protested, as did others, at 'Arafat's visit to Egypt. Israel does not want 'Arafat to visit Egypt. Others who protest do not follow one political line but their own wishes. They say they want to restore Palestine, but they cannot fulfill their wish. Israel has convinced the whole world that Palestine is the promised land and that it belonged to Israel two thousand years ago.

We fight each others to prove that Palestine is an Arab country instead of fighting the world to make it realise that Palestine is our land. Fighting should not consist of confronting a power which we know beforehand we are unable to defeat, as this results only in wasting our human and financial resources, and wasting time which could be used to convince the world of our rights, just as Israel has convinced the whole world that Palestine is its land.

It is wrong to repeat past mistakes. We talk of principles, and Arabs pay the price. Israel wants to show the Arabs up as monsters and tribes that want leaders only to get the good things of life and ignore their national causes. Why do they protest that 'Arafat visited Egypt? Who did 'Arafat visit? What is Egypt and who is Husni Mubarak? Why is there such a big fuss? Egypt is an Arab country and Husni Mubarak is an Arab leader. We are suffering from a complex, because we want Egypt to return to us just as we want to return to Egypt. Is not this the practical way? This is only a question for those who used to kill each other.

PDRY

DFLP's Hawatimah Concludes Visit 25 Dec

GF252020 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], left Aden this evening after a visit lasting several days to our country. He was seen off at the airport by 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, as well as a number of officials of the Secretariat of the Central Committee.

Before departing, Nayif Hawatimah, DFLP secretary general, stressed the necessity and importance of uniting Arab confrontation forces which are represented by the Palestinian revolution, Syria, the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, and all national liberation fronts, and stressed the necessity of strengthening relations with socialist countries — foremost of which is the Soviet Union — to confront the reactionary, imperialist, and Zionist alliance and to abort all its plans which are aimed at comaining the region and linking it with imperialist subservience, as well as liquidating the Palestinian revolution and its sole and legitimate representative, the PLO. This came in the important political lecture which he gave to army officers this morning within the framework of their annual course, and which was attended by Brigadier Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of defense.

Brother Hawatimah hailed the revolutionary experience of the PDRY in reconstructing its armed forces and the overall democratic and national gains achieved by the Yemeni people under the leadership of the YSP. He expressed his extreme appreciation for our country's position as a party, people, and government and its principled and continuous support for the Palestinian revolution and all national Arab liberation movements. Brother Hawatimah also reviewed the plots to which the Palestinian revolution was subjected by the imperialist,Zionist and Arab reaction.

He stressed the necessity of maintaining the unity of the revolution, and that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in their struggle for the return, self-determination, and establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Chairman Receives Message on ICO Summit

GF271350 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Excerpt] 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme

People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received today a written message from King Hassan II of Morocco. It contained an invitation to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to attend the fourth Islamic Conference summit which will be held in Morocco.

The message was conveyed during a meeting in his office at the Central Committee Secretariat today with Rahali Rahal, Moroccan minister of public health and envoy of the king of Morocco.

ANA Comments on 'Arafat's Cairo Visit

GF261638 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] In its comment today, ANA said: At a time when moves were being made to treat the Palestinian developments in a way that would safeguard Palestinian national unity, the PLO Executive Committee chairman's visit to Cairo and his meeting with Egyptian President Mubarak complicated the situation and enhanced the attempts to split the PLO. It was also a violation of the resolutions of the Palestine National Council adopted at its 16th session on the Camp David accord and its signatories and a wavering on the stand of the Arab liberation movement in confronting the Camp David accord, the Reagan plan and all U.S.-Zionist capitulatory plots aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause and complete their control and hegemony over all of the Arab region.

ANA noted that some circles — known for their hostility to the Palestinian people's cause — hailed this meeting which carries a very clear meaning in that it served these circles which are seeking another base for them to implement their annihilatory designs, including the Camp David accord and the Reagan plan.

ANA affirmed that the PDRY is very confident that the Palestinian people know where their interests lie and that the road to Jerusalem cannot pass through capitulation for annihilatory designs but through hard and difficult struggle which is the only guarantee for victory. The PDRY, which condemned the fighting of brothers in Tripoli and expressed its keenness for the unity of Fatah and the unity of the Palestinian revolution, believes that the PLO's legitimate institutions are the only party able to do everything possible to protect the revolution from divisions and setbacks. The PDRY is also ready to be an arena for dialogue for all Palestinian parties seeking to safeguard unity in the framework of the PLO and on the basis of its political program. The PDRY will remain, as it has been, keen for the PLO's unity and its independent national decisionmaking, and for providing all forms of assistance and support for the liberation struggle being waged by the Arab Palestinian people for their firm legitimate rights, particularly their right to self-determination, and to return and establish their independent state on their national soil.

QATAR

Mauritius Deputy Premier Arrives for Visit

GF282030 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2010 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Doha, 27 Dec (WAKH) — A Mauritian delegation, led by (Jaftan Dorpal), deputy prime minister, arrived in Doha this evening on a 2-day visit to Qatar.

In a QNA report, the delegation leader is quoted as saying that the delegation will tour a number of countries in the region to enhance bilateral cooperation, discuss the possibility of these countries participating in some investment project in Mauritius, and the feasibility of using Mauritian labor in projects in the region.

SAUDI ARABIA

Commentary Laments Palestinian Dissension

LD240005 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Husayn al-'Askari commentary]

[Text] The Palestinian forces, which withdrew from Tripoli in Lebanon, have begun to arrive at their destinations.

One of the current fears of the Arab person is his fear of the effects of the dispersion of the Palestinian struggle forces, and its ramifications for the future of the Palestinian people — the people from whose ranks came the struggle forces which were, are, and will always be the hope and support. Within this consideration, the Arab nation after detailed calculations adopted the stance which is based on supporting the Palestinian struggle and putting all the human, financial, and moral resources behind the battle of destiny between right and wrong.

But the recent developments in the Palestinian arena -- because of the fighting among the Palestinians themselves -- has created a new and serious dimension. It can be called challenging oneself, which is the most difficult challenge, as the person finds himself in conflict with himself. Because of this, Arabs have started to have deep fears of the future as a result of the confrontation between the Palestinian and his Palestinian brother. The result was more than 700 dead and thousands of wounded in a losing battle in which brother killed brother, and after which the murderer mourns those he has killed.

What happened in Tripoli must not consecrate the Arab feeling of despair. The confrontation within the Arab nation is a predestined fate, because the results of Tripoli's events were not aimed only at the Palestinian people, but primarily at the whole Arab nation. This challenge was a difficult test for the ability of the Arab person and the will of Palestinian steadfastness.

In this atmosphere of sorrow and deep agony, Arabs have the right to wonder, as His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said in his appeal to the leaders and peoples of the Arab nation to contain the crisis of Tripoli and the crisis of Lebanon. He has the right to wonder, while he is bleeding: What is the fate in store for us? Is it a predestined fate that the Arab should kill his Arab brother?

Using any criteria, what happened is an advantage for the Israeli enemy. Will the era in which only the enemy achieves all the gains end shortly?

UAE

Papers Comment on 'Arafat-Mubarak Meeting

KHALEEJ TIMES Editorial

GF241142 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 24 Dec 83 p 6

[Editorial: "'Arafat-Mubarak Meeting"]

[Text] There are two ways of looking at Thursday's meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and the Egyptian president, Mr Husni Mubarak. One is the way in which the PLO Central Committee has looked at it, as a personal initiative taken without consultation with the committee. Salah Khalaf, the second man in Fatah, has said that the step is "in contradiction with the decision of the Central Committee and the PLO Executive Committee."

Leaders of the other organisations of the PLO have reacted in a similar manner, and of course the reaction of the factions opposed to 'Arafat and who had kept him and fighters loyal to him besieged in Tripoli has been predictably hostile. The other way of looking at the meeting is the way in which 'Arafat himself looks at it. "We face major responsibilities," he has said. "We have to push our Arab nation, in these critical times, to true unity, so that we can face all our enemies." What he is saying is that despite Egypt's Camp David accords and despite the fact that Cairo continues to remain isolated in the Arab and Islamic fraternity, President Mubarak may be wanting to get back into the Arab fold, that he has already almost frozen the process of normalisation with the Zionist entity and that he should be encouraged to get further away from Israel.

Reconciliation with Egypt may help the process of Arab unity. This is a view shared by many in the Arab world. Whether the 'Arafat initiative will lead to greater unity or greater discord, the next few days and weeks will show, and it is in the light of subsquent developments that it will be judged. For the moment, all one can say is that with an Arab summit scheduled for March 31, maintaining unity in our ranks is essential, and we should be vigilant about U.S. and Israeli traps.

AL-FAJR Praises Visit

GF250814 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0645 GMT 25 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Dec (WAM) — In its editorial today, the newspaper *AL-FAJR* praised the visit which Yasir 'Arafat made to Egypt and considered it a blow which shook the Zionist entity to its roots, split the Camp David agreement and made it as though it never existed, and upset Israel's calculations. The paper noted the Israeli enemy prime minister's stand on this visit and his description of it as a clear violation of the Camp David agreement.

Commenting on the visit, the newspaper described 'Arafat's decision at this particular time -- after the exit from Beirut and before his arrival in an Arab capital -- as "a revolutionary decision in which 'Arafat destroyed the barrier which Israel and the United States set up between Egypt and the rest of the Arab countries."

AL-FAJR expressed surprise over the fact that some people are calling for 'Arafat's dismissal from all his leading positions because of this visit. "It is the stand of these people that is surprising, not 'Arafat's visit. They have not studied the situation fully and have never understood the dimensions of this visit," *AL-FAJR* stated.

The newspaper asked: Where were these people when Palestinian camps in Beirut and Tripoli were being destroyed? Where were they when the Palestinians stood alone on the Lebanese arena to confront the Israeli army during its invasion of Lebanon? Where were they when 'Arafat and the commandos were besieged by brothers and when they left through an Arab decision?

In conclusion, *AL-FAJR* called on those who denounced the visit to be patient, and to study the situation fully before they judge the visit because the peoples' fate and struggle should not be based on convulsions, passion, and feelings.

YAR

SFRY Foreign Minister Departs After Visit

GF231450 Doha QNA in Arabic 1320 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] San'a', 23 Dec (QNA) — Lazar Mojsov, Yugoslav minister for foreign affairs, left San'a' today after a 2-day visit to the YAR within the framework of a tour of the region's states. He held talks with YAR Foreign Minister Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi on bilateral relations and the means to develop them in various fields.

In a predeparture statement, the Yugoslav minister described his talks with Dr al-Asbahi as successful and fruitful, and said that the views were close to each other, particularly on Middle East issues and the strengthening of the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO's leadership, their sole legitimate representative.

President Receives Invitation to ICO Summit

GF261806 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office today Dr Rahali Rahal, Moroccan minister of public health and envoy of King Hassan II of Morocco, who delivered to him a written message from his brother King Hassan II containing an invitation to him to attend the Islamic Conference summit which will be held in Casablanca on 16 January.

Al-Baz on Political Group Talks on Peace Process
NC271424 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Presidential Office director for political affairs and Foreign Ministry first under secretary said in a statement following President Mubarak's 2-hour meeting with the Political Group that discussion focused on the steps which can be taken at the Egyptian, Arab, and international levels to boost peace efforts in the area.

In his statement, Al-Baz affirmed that Egypt is concerned with creating a new dynamic force in the area because the current fragmented stand portends evil consequences. He expressed the belief that there are some signs which we must employ in the interest of peace.

Asked whether agreement was reached at today's meeting on specific steps to boost peace efforts, Dr al-Baz said: Yes, they will be disclosed when they yield fruit.

Asked to comment on Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's statement that the United States is mistaken if it thinks the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting is a step toward peace, Dr al-Baz said: We believe that Israel is mistaken when it maintains or thinks that 'Arafat's visit to Cairo is considered an obstacle in the way of peace. He added: We believe that this is a step toward peace because leader Yasir 'Arafat is considered a voice of reason and moderation in the Palestinian movement. For this reason, Al-Baz said, we have called on the United States to hold a dialogue with the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Al-Baz said the important issue is the substance of the contacts between 'Arafat and the various Palestinian parties, as well as the purpose of these contacts. There must be a goal for these contacts to achieve progress in the peace process.

Asked whether 'Arafat expressed, during his recent visit to Cairo, a readiness to meet with King Husayn on continuing the peace process on the basis of the Reagan initiative, Dr al-Baz said: Naturally, it is premature to hold talks on specific actions that may take place. However, it has become certain and clear that the Palestinian movement in general now enjoys openmindedness and understands the importance of contacts with Jordan. Al-Baz said they believe that a Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue is necessary and useful to achieve progress in the peace process.

Asked whether there is an intention by certain Egyptian [words indistinct] to visit Israel in the near future, Dr al-Baz said: We are not against holding contacts or making visits there.

Asked whether there are arrangements at present to bring about a meeting between President Mubarak and King Husayn, Dr al-Baz said: There are no plans for this at present. President Mubarak always welcomes meetings with the Arab leaderships. However, we are not making any arrangements at present to prepare for or hold such a meeting.

Asked about Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali's recent visit to Washington and whether any U.S. official told him that the United States will recognize the PLO should the latter recognize Israel on the basis of Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, Dr al-Baz said the United States expressed, on later occasions, its desire and support for holding contacts with the Palestinian leadership should the PLO recognize Resolution No 242 or Israel's right to exist.

Asked whether this was conveyed to 'Arafat during his recent visit to Cairo, Al-Baz said: There was no message in this sense to convey to the Palestinian leadership, but it knows that this is the U.S. position.

Asked whether there is any intention to contact certain Arab parties, Dr al-Baz said: As a matter of fact, many contacts have been held in the past few days, and other contacts will take place. He said that President Mubarak sent a message to U.S. President Reagan 2 days ago within the framework of continuous dialogue between Egypt and the United States to follow up the situation in the wake of the recent developments.

Asked for his views on the reactions of certain Arab and Palestinian parties to 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, Al-Baz said this is the business of the Palestinian movement itself. We believe that the visit was a very useful step for the Palestinian people. Al-Baz added: We believe that even if differences in our views exist, this does not prevent us from continuing the dialogue. For our part, we are ready for dialogue with any party, particularly the fraternal Arab parties, if they are ready and desire this. He added that if the Egyptian and PLO views differ over the Camp David accords or the proposed formulas, this does not entirely eliminate the fact that Egypt has been and will continue to be the basic pillar of the Palestinian people's struggle for their legitimate right to self-determination.

Asked if he believes that 'Arafat's visit to Cairo has ended Egypt's so-called isolation from the Arab world, Dr al-Baz said all that is said on Egypt's isolation is erroneous. We have never felt isolated from the Arab world, but certain parties introduced this idea for certain reasons, primarily to reduce the Egyptian role or replace it. He added that events have proven to everyone that this idea is false and that Egypt's role is indispensable not only for Egyptian national interests but also for the interests of peace and stability in the area as a whole.

On the extent of U.S. understanding of Egypt's views and reactions to the strategic cooperation agreement, Dr al-Baz said that it is difficult to judge whether or not the U.S. leadership understands this. However, we explained our views and certainly did not conceal them or hesitate, despite the cooperation and strong friendship between us and the United States. We were the first country to honestly and clearly convey its views to the United States out of fear that the situation in the area might be affected by uncalculated actions. Al-Baz added: We believe that the United States has reached a clear concept regarding not only the Egyptian reaction but also the Arab reaction. The countries that enjoy friendly ties with the United States were those that levelled the most stern criticism. This is because the U.S. step will harm several factors that help maintain a minimal amount of stability in the area. We had feared that the U.S. step would further exacerbate the situation in the region and encourage Israel's negative stand as well as many trends in the area. There are many situations in Lebanon that threaten to harm the Palestinian issue, to cause the situation to erupt, and increase violence and sabotage

in the area. Al-Baz said: In all of our views, the United States is now in a better position to evaluate the situation following the reactions raised in the area. Perhaps this will prompt the United States to reconsider its stand and view it seriously.

Asked if the recent Egyptian-U.S. contacts succeeded in reducing the dangers of the strategic cooperation agreement, Dr al-Baz said this depends on future events. However, there is at least one positive phenomenon, namely, the U.S. stand that differs from the Israeli one over 'Arafat's visit to Cairo. It is clear that there has been and still is a great disparity between the U.S. and Israeli attitudes toward the visit. Al-Baz said Israel is saying the visit and talks held constitute an obstacle to peace; the U.S. leadership says the opposite: It believes that the visit and talks may give momentum to the peace process.

Al-Baz further said these developments may continue in the future. This could be the beginning of a new, more precise formula for U.S.-Israeli relations. The basis must always be to consider the basic policies and courses that bring us closer to peace and regional stability.

Asked whether he believes that Shamir's announcement of the four "no's" is an attempt to evade the peace course or to continue with it, Dr al-Baz said: We do not like to judge intentions, but we maintain that this is a negative stand. He added: In the past, Israel always claimed that it wanted peace but the Arabs alone hindered and rejected it. If a Palestinian party expresses readiness for negotiations, the door must be kept open, particularly since we see that there are strong trends among the Palestinian people supporting efforts toward peace. We have seen a development to which Israel has not sufficiently responded; when five prominent personalities from the West Bank and Gaza sent an appeal to all Palestinian parties to refrain from acts of violence, assassinations, and actions against civilians. We believe that all of these trends should motivate Israel to reconsider its stand. The clear principle that must be maintained is that any party that agrees to enter the peace process must be given the right to participate in making this peace.

'Ali to Leave for Sudan With Mubarak Message

NC272119 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will leave Cairo for Khartoum in the next few hours to deliver a message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri. Our correspondent has learned that the message deals with developments in the area and with Egypt's recent contacts.

Ghali Sees Progress in Arab Relations

NC280932 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has affirmed that Egyptian-Arab relations are an important and basic part of overall Arab cooperation. In a statement to the weekly magazine, *AKHIR SA'AH* published today, Dr Ghali says that there is now a general conviction in the Arab world that Egypt's absence from it has been one of the reasons for the fragmentation and division in the Arab world. He adds that he is confident 1984 will witness radical developments in relations between Egypt and majority of Arab states and that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Cairo, and his meeting with President Husni Mubarak will be the prelude to a new era in Arab-Egyptian relations.

Dr Ghali emphasizes his confidence that Arab solidarity in 1984 will be stronger and more solid than the emergence of differences, regardless of the vestiges of the past and growth in differences, which in some stages witnessed armed conflict and the killing of Arabs by the bullets of Arab brothers. He says that discernment should prevail and that all sons of the Arab nation must realize that our existence and triumph over obstacles depend on our unity and solidarity.

He is hopeful that rationality and prudence will prevail in the Iraqi-Iranian war and that the two combatants will sit around the negotiating table to find a sound means for ending the conflict.

Dr Ghali adds that despite the disruption of the peace efforts because of specific stands and conditions, Egypt has worked to encourage Jordan and the PLO to reach an agreement.

Dr Ghali pointed out that Egyptian diplomacy concentrated its efforts on two trends during 1983: Participation through international cooperation, and boosting efforts aimed at finding a solution to the Lebanese crisis and Palestinian issue to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

AL-AHRAM on 'Changed' U.S. Mideast Position

NC280841 Cairo MENA in English 0755 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA) — In an article entitled "A Voice From Washington," *AL-AHRAM* writes editorially today that it is perhaps the first time that President Ronald Reagan (at his recent press conference) expressly and openly asked that 'Arafat take part in peace negotiations. "One must be fair and declare that Reagan's attitude toward 'Arafat's visit to Egypt and his meeting with President Muhammad was evenhanded," the paper writes.

"The United States President sees a looming change for King Husayn and 'Arafat, as the representative of the Palestinians, to take part in enlarged negotiations seeking peace in the Middle East."

The paper goes on to say that another point worthy of being placed on record is that the United States, as Reagan put it, considers the troubled situation in Lebanon no longer poses an obstacle to a total peaceful settlement in the area.

The U.S. President, *AL-AHRAM* notes, said: "We believed that the Lebanese crisis first had to be settled before we could get on with the Middle East peace process, but I now see that this is no longer necessary." This means frankly that the United States has changed its position completely. We have repeatedly said that what is happening in Lebanon must be separated from

efforts which were already in progress — seeking to establish peace in the Middle East by radically dealing with the prime issue in the crisis, which is the Palestine question. The official American position for along time was to deal with the Lebanese problem first, but now Washington has categorical proof that there is a need to separate the two issues.

Now that the United States has come to the realization that 'Arafat must join in the peace process as a representative of the Palestinians and that the Palestine issue could take precedence over the Lebanese problem, we have what can be the two keys capable of unlocking some of the doors leading to a fresh and suitable move for dealing with the Middle East problem in a purely rational way, the paper goes on to say.

The paper concludes: Now that the road to dealing with the Middle East crisis, away from the roar of guns and missiles, is clear ahead, each party must live up to its responsibility so that in this coming new year we may see a reasonable move toward solution by all who have a right to join. This is all that we can hope for.

President Receives Message From King Hassan II

JN2802?8 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Dec (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from King Hassan II of Morocco concerning the forthcoming Islamic summit conference, relations between the two fraternal countries, and the current Arab situation. The message was delivered by Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdelouahid Belkeziz when he was received by the president this morning.

President Saddam Husayn asked the Moroccan foreign minister to convey his greetings to his brother King Hassan II and Iraq's interest in the topics which will be discussed by the summit out of Iraq's firm policy to back the ICO in the service of the issues of the Arab and Isalmic nations.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

New Group of Palestinian Fighters Arrives

JN271338 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] A second group of Paelstinian fighters has arrived in Baghdad. They left Tripoli after the Syrian and Libyan regimes' forces had forced them to leave. The fighters, who were carrying pictures of president leader Saddam Husayn and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, were received by the head and members of the liberation movements office in the RCC and the head of the PLO office in Baghdad.

The fighters expressed their appreciation for Iraq's pan-Arab positions under President Saddam Husayn, the continued support for the Palestinian revolution, and for receiving the Palestinian fighters after the forces of the agent Syrian and Libyan regimes had forced them to leave Tripoli.

PRC People's Congress Delegation Arrives

JN272014 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Dec (INA) — A Chinese National People's Congress delegation led by Wang Renzhong, vice chairman of the Congress, arrived here tonight at the invitiation of the Iraqi National Assembly. During its week-long visit, the Chinese delegation will hold talks with Iraqi National Assembly officials aimed at increasing bilateral cooperation.

Armed Forces Issues Communique No 1,323

JN271737 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,323 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 27 December 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces are continuing their operations against the forces of the clique of injustice and aggression in Iran. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. A formation of our capable helicopters fired on some enemy engineering equipment opposite one of our forward unit's positions in an area east of Basra this morning. Our helicopters were able to destroy one excavator and three bulldozers. They returned safely after accomplishing their duties, praise be to God. In another area in the same sector, our forward units opened artillery fire on a number of enemy positions and engineering equipment. Our blows were effective.

2. One of our forward units used various weapons to fire on enemy positions opposite our positions in the northern sector of the operational theater. It was able to destroy one infantry position.

3. One of our forward units opened artillery fire on enemy positions and personnel opposite our positions in the Maysan operational sector, scoring direct and effective hits.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 December 1983

Correction to Communique No 1,322

The following correction pertains to the item subheaded "No 1,322," published in the 27 December Middle East and Africa *DAILY REPORT*, page E 2, paragraph numbered 2:

... 2. Our forward units opened fire on a number of enemy vehicles and a group of enemy soldiers opposite their positions in the northern...(supplying dropped line)

Jordan Accepts, Israel Rejects Reagan Plan
JN262028 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Dec 83

["Today's Talk"]

[Text] Peace efforts have been thwarted by Israel's rejectionist policy against the numerous peace initiatives in the region, by the United States' hesitation and support for Israel, and by the absence of Arab accord. Despite this, all the existing circumstances and facts make peace and stability in the Middle East a very urgent matter so that the efforts by those who are trying to tamper with the region's security and stability can be foiled.

Because of renewed hope in the possibility of moving the current situation from the freezing point toward possible and reasonable political solutions, Israel has created an uproar over the Egyptian president's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat out of fear that Jordan, Egypt, and the Palestinians will hold further contacts to implement President Reagan's Middle East initiative. In this regard, we are interested in stressing that Jordan welcomed Reagan's proposals from the beginning and hoped to see them move and develop. Even though Jordan viewed them as insufficient, these proposals constituted an encouraging beginning for change if compared to previous positions concerning the settlements issue.

But what happened is that, despite Israel's outright rejection of President Reagan's initiative, no decisive action has been taken. Thus, the initiative's vigor has faded and the momentum for peace has been lost. The revival of strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel has taken place in order to provide the U.S. Administration the necessary justification for abandoning the initiative.

His Majesty King Husayn's recent move toward Europe and his historic speech in the European Parliament in Strasbourg were made to stress the danger of the region's situation, which negatively reflects on security, peace, and stability in the Middle East and the world, and to raise hopes of achieving a European move that would start a U.S.-Soviet dialogue on stopping the international polarization trend in the region and starting a dialogue to bring about security, peace, and stability in the Middle East. His Majesty King Husayn's proposals to the international community through the European Parliament constitute a solid base for moving the peace process in the region forward and stopping all attempts to tamper with the region's security, fate, and stability.

Israel reiterated its refusal to reactive President Reagan's initiative and fears that contacts might be held among Jordan, Egypt, and the Palestinians. This is not because the Reagan initiative meets the just and legitimate demands of Jordan and the Palestinians, but because Israel in no way accepts any initiative, regardless of its nature, that might bring about any kind of peace — even if it is insufficient.

We would like to reiterate that we support the Reagan initiative, despite its insufficiency, and that we support reactivating that initiative — if the United States will be committed to building peace in the region on the basis of that initative and if this leads to the UN resolutions concerning the Palestine question and the Middle East dispute. We reiterate this because we are advocates of peace and will remain so. This fact makes it incumbent on us to move in all directions and to hold dialgoue with all parties as long as this serves our national and pan-Arab interests in bringing about a just and permanent peace in the region. We say this because we and the Palestinian people have paid a high price over the past 3 decades as a result of violence, aggression, and instability, and because we and the Palestinians adhere to the principles of peace, security, and stability in the Middle East.

We will continue to call for peace when faced with those advocating disturbance, war, and aggression until the international community discovers the importance of bringing about peace based on the security and stability of the region and the world.

AR-RA'Y on Local Reaction to 'Arafat Visit
JN251039 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Dec 83 pp 12, 13

[Excerpts] Amman, *AR-RA'Y* — Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak have generated conflicting reaction on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. To survey these reactions, *AR-RA'Y* correspondents yesterday sought the opinions of several Jordanian and Palestinian personalities in Jordan. These personalities expressed different points of view.

[Former] Jerusalem Mayor Rawhi al-Khatib declined to comment on the visit, and said: I prefer to wait until I hear Brother Yasir 'Arafat's justifications for his Cairo visit and his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. He added: I will continue to respect Brother Abu 'Ammar.

The doyen of Jordanian lawyers, Sulayman al-Hadidi, said he is against the visit because it is a violation of the Arab nation's will and resolutions on both the official and popular levels. He added that this visit is also an encouragement for the Camp David trend, which the Egyptian regime still repesents. Moreover, the most serious aspect of this visit is its negative and grave effects on the unity of Palestinian action, the Palestinian revolution, the PLO, and the Fatah movement. This has been evident in the statements made against this visit by leading elements of various Palestinian levels and organizations. This visit will be an additional reason for fragmentation and something which the Palestinian leaders must deal with in order to preserve the unity of the PLO and Palestinian action for the sake of achieving the Palestinian revolution's aims.

PNC member Ibrahim Bakr expressed deep sorrow for what is taking place. He said: What is happening is very regrettable; nobody wants to exacerbate problems and difficulties.

He said that it is important in these very grave circumstances to maintain the Palestinian people's unity through a PLO unity based on respecting Palestinian legitimacy. This is represented first and foremost by complete adherence to the Palestine National Charter and the PNC resolutions through a democratic trend and collective leadership, and not by individuals, regardless of their status.

He added: I am fully convinced that the PLO can use its institutions to deal with the acute crisis created by Brother Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his meeting with President Husni Mubarak.

Dr Jamal ash-Sha'ir, member of the Jordanian National Consultative Council [NCC], said: What concerns me in regard to Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo is that it constitutes a new and bold step along the path of Egypt's return to the Arab fold to play its full leading role in the Arab arena.

Regarding Yasir 'Arafat personally, he said that it is the duty of Fatah institutions as well as the PLO Executive Committee and the PNC to judge the legitimacy or illegitimacy of the visit.

Dr Rif'at 'Awdah, chairman of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, said: I think this visit should not have taken place because Husni Mubarak would not have blamed Abu 'Ammar if the latter had not made the visit. I do not consider this visit to be treason, as some have called it. I have heard what the faction leaders have said about it. Their comments were biased rather than objective.

I blame only 'Arafat for his unilateral decision to visit Cairo without basing this decision on legitimate PLO channels and without abiding by the Baghdad summit resolutions, which called for boycotting the Egyptian regime so long as it continues to be the captive of the Camp David accords.

I personally believe that it is wrong to deal with the current regime as if it were As-Sadat's regime. We have to encourage Mubarak's regime and help it overcome Camp David and what it inherited from As-Sadat's era.

NCC member Khalid al-Fayyad said: In view of his position, Yasir 'Arafat is better aware than everyone else of the requirements of national walfare. 'Arafat's visit to Cairo is not a mistake, because he has his justifications for it.

Shaykh Habib al-Wahidi, one of the Al-Baq'ah camp notables, stressed that he is for any Arab meeting aimed at unifying this nation for the sake of the Palestine question. He said that Egypt has its Arab and demographic impact and power, which nobody can ignore. He added that no Arab can deny the aid that Egypt offered to the Palestinian fighters during the siege of Tripoli.

PNC member 'Umar al-Khatib scored the rabid campaign against 'Arafat and said: We are surprised at this rabid campaign against leader Abu 'Ammar, which comes after evacuating him from Tripoli according to a bargain between the Syrian regime and the United States.

He said: If we assume that the man made a mistake, I will continue to believe that he is years ahead of all those around him in making this event. He has never relinquished independent Palestinian decisionmaking despite the pressures put on him in Beirut and Tripoli. Likewise, he will not relinquish that right in Cairo.

Al-Khatib wondered where these zealous ones who are calling for 'Arafat's dismissal were when the Palestinians were killed in Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid by the brothers' guns and rockets. He asked: Why did they not call for the dismissal and trial of the perpetrators of crimes against our people?

Haj Mahmud Sa'id, one of the Palestinian camp's notables, said: I am against Abu 'Ammar's visit to Cairo, unless he has his own reasons for it — reasons which are still unknown to us. I think that those who carry the rifle should not visit Cairo, because the Camp David agreement does not allow them to do so. I am not against any contact with Egypt by any Arab citizen, because Egypt's role and Arabism cannot be ignored and because its impact in the Arab world cannot be denied.

PNC member 'Abd al-'Aziz Saqr wished that Abu 'Ammar had not unilaterally decided to visit Cairo before consulting the PLO's legitimate institutions in order to discuss the many changes that have taken place in the arena, particularly after the Palestinian resistance's departure from Lebanon and to adopt the necessary decisions. Thus, he added, every step would be studied and adopted in implementation of a general and comprehensive PLO desire.

He said that he is with Abu 'Ammar and legitimacy, but against unilateral steps, particularly with regard to a subject such as relations with Egypt, a country whose stands should be carefully studied. He added that this visit clearly clashes with the PNC resolutions.

PNC member Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid as-Sa'ih said that this subject should be dealt with by the legitimate departments of the PNC, which has the right to adopt the correct decision in line with the supreme interest of the Palestine question and the Arab situation in general. He said that Brother Abu 'Ammar's visit does not conform with the PNC resolutions.

NCC member Dr Mamduh 'Abbadi said that 'Arafat's visit to Cairo arouses surprise and constitutes a violation of the PNC resolutions, which were unanimously approved by all the Palestinian forces and functionaries. He added that it is premature to issue a final verdict on this sudden initiative. However, he said, the next few days will reveal the dimensions and results of this visit on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels.

Muhammad Milhim, the dismissed mayor of Halhul, told PETRA that any move by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will only be in the interest of the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's national interests and aspirations.

Replying to those who criticized 'Arafat's visit to Egypt, Milhim said that the visit achieved positive results that will materialize shortly on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. Concluding, he praised 'Arafat's visit to Egypt and described it as a daring step to which the Arabs were looking forward in order to restore Egypt's role in serving the Arab causes.

The doyen of engineers, Layth Shubaylat, rejected this visit and said: In the same way as we strongly and clearly stood against all those who plotted against Palestinian legitimacy, represented by Yasir 'Arafat and his supporters in Tripoli, we have to say our word about 'Arafat's Cairo visit. This visit harms the issue that we are always defending. We are against wrong action, wherever it appears and whoever commits it.

He added: We are against those who rebelled against Palestinian legitimacy and against the Cairo visit by the PLO chairman, who should abide by the PNC resolutions just like everyone else. Shubaylat hoped that everyone will abide by the resolutions, which govern the Arab countries' relations with Egypt.

Najib al-Ahmad, director of the PLO Executive Committee chairman's office in Amman, supports 'Arafat's step. He said that 'Arafat does not and will not take a single step unless it is in the interest of the Palestine question. He added: We have to wait and see if his step was right or wrong. We must know the reasons that prompted him to visit Cairo and meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. He attacked the voices that attacked Abu 'Ammar's Cairo visit before knowing the reasons for the visit. He wondered where these voices were when Abu 'Ammar and the Fatah forces were being continuously shelled and massacred in Tripoli and elsewhere, and when the Palestinian forces were expelled from Beirut.

Al-Ahmad stressed that the Palestinian revolution is stronger than all people, and that if Abu 'Ammar is wrong there are legitimate institutions that can take him to task, as he is not above accountability.

Salim, Shaykhani News Conference on Security, MNF

NC272135 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2016 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Information Minister Roger Shaykhani and Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim held a news conference this evening at the Foreign Correspondents' Hall at the Information Ministry. Colonel Nabil Farhat, assistant chief of Lebanese Army Intelligence, also was in attendance as was a large number of local and foreign correspondents. The conference centered on explaining some points regarding the recent events in the southern suburb and the Sabra and Shatila areas.

Opening the news conference, Minister Shaykhani said: We are here this evening to explain some points which regrettably were a subject of misunderstanding by foreign information media. Undoubtedly, you know the places called Sabra and Shatila. Because of the names of these two places, there was a lot of clamor about the possibility of a repeat of the regrettable tragedy which occurred there some months ago. I will speak to you briefly, and afterward give the platform to my colleague, Minister Elie Salim, who can answer your questions.

At the outset, I would like to express my pleasure in my capacity as information minister that you are among us tonight. I recall an article written by your colleague George Naqqash in the newspaper *L'ORIENT* in 1949. He wrote that two contradictions do not make a nation. Today I can tell you something of which I am convinced and can confirm, namely, that we have two affirmations; we no longer have two contradictions but two affirmations. In our political concept, two affirmations can make a nation. These affirmations are the strong and unchangeable will among all the communities who live on Lebanese soil to live together.

Minister Shaykhani added: Recently, you heard of the Islamic Lebanese statement. You also heard of the Christian declaration of principles. All want to live on this soil as a Lebanese nation.

Regarding the viewpoint which concerns us and for the sake of which we have asked you to come here, there is a government decision adopted a few months ago providing that the Lebanese Army should fill any vacuum resulting from the withdrawal of any other force. We regrettably saw that when this vacuum is not filled by the Lebanese Army, problems and events occur which in our opinion are of the kind that should be averted. If we deal with recent events, we notice that the Multinational Force, specifically the French and also the Italian forces, left the positions it occupied on the edges of Beirut. These edges are specifically the places called Sabra and Shatila.

The Army is silent and is not supposed to speak. However, we have invited Col Farhat to explain some points to which we do not like to refer, because the Army, as you, must remain silent. However, Minister Salim and I have asked the colonel to attend to speak to you, if you have questions to ask him.

Minister Shaykhani added: Therefore, after the French and Italian forces left their positions, it was necessary to fill this vacuum. The Lebanese Army, as usual, carried out its duty in filling this vacuum. Regrettably however some forces other than the Lebanese Army believed for a time that they had the chance to occupy strategic and military sites and those vacated by the French and Italians.

In fact, the Lebanese Army belongs to all and to all legally residing on Lebanese territory. There were few arrests during the weekend operation. In fact, there were 150 detainees. There are now only 10 Palestinian detainees of whom investigations by the military court continue. There are also 52 aliens who were present there [in Sabra and Shatila] without legal permits, entry visas or residence papers, or any other documents. Pursuant to Lebanese law, these aliens have been sent to the Public Security Directorate, which will deport them.

Minister Shaykhani then allowed the correspondents to ask questions. The first question was: Why didn't the Internal Security Forces instead of the Army enter the areas vacated by the French and Italians?

Minister Salim answered by saying: The Army is entrusted with security tasks in Beirut. This is its duty in accordance with a Cabinet decision. However, the Army may ask the Internal Security Forces to help in the maintenance of peace and order in Lebanon and Beirut as well. The Army's entry into these places, Minister Salim added, took place in a completely legal and constitutional way. The presence of the Army in that area provides better security and assurance for the people there than would be provided by a small security force. The Army does not provide a provocation to any group. There is a security plan, but it does not cover the areas vacated by the French and Italians. The Army's entry into these areas does not provide any provocation and does not conflict with the security plan prpeared for the southern suburb and other areas of Lebanon.

Col Farhat was asked: Was the Lebanese Army informed of the withdrawal of the French force in due time, or was it a quick withdrawal and surprise to the Army?

Col Farhat said: The French Army notified the Lebanese Army only 10 minutes before vacating three positions. We had insufficient time for the necessary planning.

Col Farhat was asked: Therefore, there was no coordination regarding this action?

Col Farhat answered: I cannot say there was no coordination; we were informed 10 minutes before the withdrawal. Naturally, thisis not enough time for making careful plans for the sake of filling this vacuum.

Col Farhat was asked: Did the French decision take you by surprise?

Col Farhat answered: Yes.

Asked why the Italian contingent failed to occupy the positions vacated by the French, Minister Shaykhani said: The Italian force immediately entered the Sabra and Shatila camps following the withdrawal of the French force. Shortly afterward, the Italians left their positions. This prompted the Lebanese Army to fill the vacuum. I want to reiterate that the Lebanese Army's

sole objective is to fill every vacuum created by the Multinational Force.

Minister Shaykhani added: I do not blame the Multinational Force. The Lebanese Army has implemented a political decision made a long time ago. The decision provides for the Army to fill every vacuum that is created on the ground. I insist that the Lebanese Army's sole objective was to occupy the positions vacated by the French and Italian forces. The Army had no other objective. Nobody can say that it had planned to deploy in the area between Khaldah and Beirut.

Asked for a timeframe that the Army needed to draw up its plans for filling the vacated positions, Col Farhat said: Aprroximately 6 hours, or even 1 hour before the withdrawal. But the vacuum prompted us as an Army to fill it. We have the capabilities to intervene within an hour.

Asked his opinion on the Italian president's statement concerning the withdrawal of the Italian contingent from Beirut, Minister Salim said: During his visit to Italy, the president of the Republic met with Italian President Pertini during which he was assured of Italian support for the Multinational Force and Lebanese issue. We were also assured by Prime Minister Craxi, Foreign Minister Andreotti, and Defense Minister Spadolini that the Italian force will stay in Lebanon until the Lebanese problem is solved. They told us that Italy might reduce the number of its personnel, but this force will stay in Lebanon and continue to perform its duty. No states participating in the Multinational Force will withdraw their forces from Lebanon before settlement of the Lebanese problem. We are confident that the issue will be solved in the near future. Likewise, we are confident that the force is playing an extremely important role in preserving peace and security and in securing international political support for Lebanon's just cause. We have full political understanding with the four countries involved, and despite all the statements made from time to time, the political stands in the four capitals are still the same.

When asked if it is possible that the status of the U.S. force would change should there be withdrawals by the Italians or others, Minister Salim said: The presence of the U.S. force here is to support a policy that was charted by President Reagan. This policy has been pursued for over a year now. The presence of the U.S. force cannot be affected by any decision involving the French, Italian, or British forces, because it is not a combat force. It is here to help achieve a political solution. As long as there are no new political decisions, I believe there will be no change in the status of the U.S. force.

When Minister Shaykhani was asked why he defines the Army's task as filing every vacuum created on the ground, and doesn't he believe that there is now a security vacuum in Ash-Shiyyah, and will it be filled by the Army, he said: There are two geographical areas in the Ash-Shiyah: The area which is part of Greater Beirut and consequently under the control of the legitimate authority and the Army; and there is also the southern suburb, which is still a topic of discussion by all parties concerned with the establishment of security in all areas. When Minister Shaykhani was asked against whom the Army fought in Sabra and Shatila, he said: The Army did not fight anyone. But when its was attacked, it had to defend itself. Asked if he expects a repetition of the Sabra and Shatila events, Minister Shaykhani said: I do not expect the recurrence of any such event. I call on all Lebanese to consider the Army as belonging to all Lebanese, without discrimination, and not to the government or any party.

Minister Salim was asked: At what stage is the solution to the Lebanese crisis? He answered: Well, I believe that there was a consensus on Lebanese unity during the Geneva conference. Since then, we have been dwelling on the security plan. I believe that this plan will be completed this week. It will be a main plan and change much of the existing conditions. It will be a major political step forward. Since the Geneva conference, there have been intensive discussions between Lebanon and Syria, and this demonstrates that we, after a long time, are discussing all issues that will enable us ride out our crisis. This in itself is major progress. The plan for the second round in Geneva is now being drawn up, and the issues pertaining to the political reform are under discussion. I believe there is agreement in principle regarding political reform. The president is now making efforts to form a government of national unity. These efforts have been delayed but have not failed. They were delayed due to tactical issues which require certain clarifications. I believe that we are making progress in this field.

Minister Salim said: I believe we have made much progress on the political level, although the security situation does not always reflect the real political situation. Actually, the political agreement is now bigger and deeper than has been reflected in the events of the past few days. Therefore, the security planning which we are now drawing up will greatly affect the political situation and give it impetus toward assuring progress.

Asked about the areas to be covered by the security plan, Minister Salim said: The security plan will cover the south, Ash-Shuf, Greater Beirut, the two parts of the capital, the withdrawal of the Lebanese forces and the Progressive Socialist Party forces, and the deployment of the Army in some areas and Internal Security Forces in others. There is some kind of an agreement in principle of this plan, but there are certain obstacles facing its implementation on the ground. However, we hope that we will be able to solve them by the end of this week.

Minister Salim was asked: Do you expect drastic changes in the situation following the implementation of the security plan? He said: Yes, we expect a great change following its implementation.

Asked if the security plan contains anything related to the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the south, Minister Salim said: The security plan does not cover the non-Lebanese forces present in Lebanon. Minister Salim was told: But you have spoken of the Syrians. He answered: No, I have not referred to the Syrians. The Syrians and Saudis are helping politically to implement the plan. But certainly the plan does not cover the Syrians, nor the areas under their supervision. It also does not cover the Israelis or the areas under their influence. Minister Shaykhani was asked: How many persons were arrested in Sabra and Shatila, and does the Army have any detainees from the southern suburb? He answered: I informed you a short while ago that there are 10 Palestinians in custody on charges of

carrying weapons and firing on the Army. We also are detaining 52 aliens who did not carry legal papers.

Minister Salim was asked: Will the Army enter the southern suburb? He answered: The Army does not now plan to enter the southern suburb.

Minister Salim was asked: Can the Army's current shelling bring results? He answered: I think the proper way to phrase the question is: Will the shelling serve the objectives for which everyoneis working? I believe this is the proper way to ask the question, especially for those who know the Lebanese war and the sides involved.The question that should be asked is: Why is there heavy artillery shelling of all sides involved in the conflict? The question regarding the reasons prompting the Army to shell is wrong. The Army shells, as do the Progressive Socialist Party forces, the Amal forces, and in fact all groups. You as correspondents covering the Lebanese war know this.

Lebanon's tragedy lies in the shelling directed at everyone — children, women, and old people. The reason for this tragedy is that non-Lebanese fingers and hands are interfering in the Lebanese conflict. To those, the Lebanese say: Enough. It is in the interest of Lebanon and the forces in Lebanon, and the interests of the Arab world and the whole world that all should halt these acts. We all must work for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and allow the Lebanese family itself to solve its problem. We can prove to the world, as we did in Geneva, that we do not disagree among ourselves. Leave us alone, and you will see what we can do. Thereforethe solution lies in a halt to foreign intervention. This is what must be emphasized.

Answering a question, Minister Salim said: I don't wish to say who directs whom. All I want to say is that foreign parties are directing internal parties in Lebanon. Since the beginning of the war in 1975, we have had several groups in Lebanon with relations abroad. They are internal and legal groups, but regarding political and military matters, they were subservient to a considerable degree to foreign forces, and you know this.

Col Farhat was asked: Following the events that resulted from the sudden withdrawal of the French force, are there now contacts with the Multinational Command to avert a repetition of these events? He answered: Yes, directives were given with the aim of creating greater coordination between the Army and Multinational Force on the questions of changing positions or the points dealing with participation or missions of the Multinational Force in Beirut.

When Col Farhat was asked if there had been no coordination, he said: I said there was coordination but it was insufficient. At this point Minister Shaykhani interrupted, explaining: We must repeat that we have no blame whatsoever to level at the Multinational Force. In fact, we thank the force for performing its duties. Asked how he could explain the French action — that is, vacating the positions in the Shatila area, Col Farhat said: In my capacity as a military man, when I see danger around me, I move my forces in such a way as to avert the threat. Since the French units were subjected to dangers time and again in their positions, it was their right to move their forces to preserve the lives of their soldiers.

Foreign Minister Salim was asked: The former U.S. secretary spoke of partitioning Lebanon, and the French defense minister spoke of a civil war in Lebanon. Do you see any relationship between these two statements and what happened in the southern suburb [of Beirut]?

Minister Salim said: I will not comment on statements made by individuals in a personal capacity. Regarding the French statement, I can say that the war since 1975 has not been a civil war. What we have in Lebanon is an internal and not a civil war. We have an internal war in which forces in and outside the region are interfering to achieve their political goals.

The Lebanese people have become hostages to these regional and international political machinations. He added that it is certain that partitioning Lebanon is neither an American nor French policy.

He said the Lebanese people and government will take no notice even if the entire world says that Lebanon must be partitioned, because the Lebanese are determined to remain united. There must be one united country or nothing at all.

We will continue the struggle to liberate every inch of Lebanon. Partition is out of the question, as is subservience. Our option is freedom and unity.

Asked whether he could give additional details about the persons arrested during the past 3 days, Minister Salim said there are 35 Palestinians, 9 Syrians, 4 Egyptians, 1 Jordanian, and 3 Pakistanis. None of them has an identity card or legal residence. We will apply the law, and the Public Security will definitely deport them.

At this stage Minister Salim asked the journalists: Persons who have no legal documents in France, Britain, the United States, and Italy would be remanded. Isn't that so?

Asked how many Lebanese have been remanded during the recent incidents, Minister Shaykhani said: There were approximately 150 persons yesterday. We are still holding 31 of them. When we finish interrogating them, theytoo will be released.

Asked if he could comment on French Defense Minister Hernu's statement that Lebanon is living through a civil war, Minister Shaykhani said: As my colleague Minister Salim has said, allow this war is taking place on our land, it is not a civil war.

I repeat what Minister Salim said in English — that if we were to be left alone, we would always live together. This was demonstrated by the first conference in Geneva.

Minister Shaykhani further said: We hope that the second round of the Geneva conference will be convened. After that, a national unity government will be formed.

We are living in a democratic country. In democratic countries there must be opposition, but it must not be turned into military opposition.

Salim Confers With French, Italian Envoys
NC281103 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Elie Salim met separately today with Ferdinand Wibaux, French ambassador in Lebanon, and Italian Ambassador Franco Otteiri to discuss the conditions and problems of the Multinational Force in Lebanon.

The minister received the French ambassador at 1000 in the presence of Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, director of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, and Ambassador Suhayl Frayjah, director of European affairs at the ministry.

The meeting lasted approximately 30 minutes. Answering reporters' questions on the nature of the discussions, the French ambassador said they dealt with the problems faced by the French contingent. He stated: "We have received some threats. There are many rumors. I assured the foreign minister today of France's political commitment to Lebanon." The ambassador added: The French contingent has adopted precautionary measures to confront the threats.

Minister Salim then received the Italian ambassador for the same purpose.

Shi'ite Leader Back From Syria; Talks To Al-Wazzan
NC271733 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, returned to Beirut today following several days in Damascus, during which he had talks with senior Syrian officials on the consolidation of the cease-fire and on security steps for the southern suburb, the mountains, and the Al-Kharrub region.

The Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council has been called to a meeting tomorrow morning to discuss the latest security and political developments. Shaykh Shams ad-Din described his talks in Damascus as successful and fruitful. He contacted His Eminence Mufti Khalid and other spiritual and political leaders.

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan contacted Shaykh Shams ad-Din this evening and discussed with him the general situation, particularly the security situation in the southern suburb.

Israelis Arrest Mosque Imam, Patrol Sidon
NC281323 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The Israeli Forces late last night arrested the imam of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah area Mosque [in Sidon] in violation of international norms, unheedful of the wave of resentment and anger among the religious, official, and popular circles. This step follows the arrest of Ash-Shaykh Muhammad al-'Arifi, imam of the Al-Battah Mosque yesterday. The sit-in called for by men of religion to protest Israeli practices against public freedoms and religious dignitaries began this afternoon.

It transpired today that a residential building on Al-B'asiri Street was the target of the explosions heard at midnight in Sidon. The three explosive devices caused enormous material damage to the furniture of the residential apartments and set fire to two floors. Najwa Hajjar and Ruba Hajjar were wounded. Moreover, several cars were burned. Sidon fire brigades extinguished the fires. Members of the Islamic Institution and municipality in Sidon removed the rubble and salvaged some furniture. Internal Security Forces members examined the building and prepared a report on the damage.

Security reports say that an explosive device went off last night on the main Az-Zahrani-An-Nabatiyah Road near Zifta when an Israeli patrol was passing. Casualties and losses could not be determined because of the cordon imposed by the Israeli forces, whichhave since this morning been deploying foot patrols in all the main and secondary streets in Sidon. Each patrol consists of 13 members. One patrol was seen on 'Ayn al-Hulwah Road, and another was seen combing the groves along the Lebanese University Building Road opposite Government House, headquarters of the Israeli Command in Sidon.

Franjiyah Says Al-Jumayyil To Set Dialogue Date
NC251344 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Former President Sulayman Franjiyah has said that President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil will set a date and venue of the second round of the Geneva National Dialogue Conference during the first 10 days of January. Franjiyah renewed his proposal and wish that the conference be convened in Riyadh because the conferees, who will discuss all the ramifications of and contradictions in the Lebanese internal situation, need to meet under a regime which will intervene if necessary to settle any dispute. All the conferees have confidence in the Saudi ruler and appreciate the role undertaken by King Fahd and his predecessors in Lebanon's service.

President Franjiyah was speaking yesterday afternoon to a delegation representing the Lebanese Research and Studies Institute, including Ambassador Mahmud al-Hafiz, Drs Farid Najjar, Edward 'Id, Khalil Baz, and Nadim Al-Bustani, and lawyer Kamil Finyanus. Franjiyah called for supporting President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil in his battle for the salvation of Lebanon and for overcoming the difficulties he is facing. He said that it is still not time to judge the president's efforts because there are opportunities before him that will help in arriving at results which will establish Lebanon's territorial integrity. Franjiyah said rumors regarding the partitioning of Lebanon into cantons will not be allowed to materialize as long as the Lebanese are aware of the dangers facing them and their country. He said such schemes are only found in some U.S. kitchens. Franjiyah said that the nonratification of the 17 May agreement will ultimately be an adequate solution to the problem existing over the agreement. He stressed that the United States, which overlooked and then blessed the Israeli incursion, is responsible for ousting Israel from Lebanon.

Asked how the withdrawal problem can be solved when Syria and Israel are each making their own conditional upon the with-

drawal of the other side, Franjiyah said: Israel will be forced to withdraw from Lebanon because of the strong Lebanese resistance in the south. Otherwise a revolt will break out in Israel forcing it to withdraw. Franjiyah pointed out that if Israel loses one plane it is given two instead and if it loses its air fleet it will be given two fleets. This applies to all types of arms Israel possesses. However, if Israel looses a single citizen its demographic character will be shaken.

Intense anger and resentment now exist in Israel over the increasing casualties suffered by Israeli forces in southern Lebanon. However, this anger will turn into revolt and resentment will turn into an upsurge against the Israeli Government. Both the revolt and upsurge will force Shamir's government to withdraw from Lebanon.

Franjiyah added: The problem of the 17 May agreement will be settled by the Lebanese national resistance in the south. Israel, which is threatening to stay in the south, will find itself forced to leave. The people in the south have been stronger than the greatness of the big powers and sharper than any weapons which we hoped the world would use against this usurper and aggressor state to induce it to end its aggression against Lebanon and withdraw beyond the border.

On the Syrian stance, Franjiyah said: I personally have confidence in President Hafiz al-Asad and in very word he says. President Al-Asad said in Bonn and Bucharest and affirmed in his speeches that the Syrian forces will not remain in Lebanon a single moment after the withdrawal of the last Israeli soldier. Franjiyah said the credibility of the Syrian stance lies in the fact that President al-Asad responded to former President Ilyas Sarkis when he asked him after the Israeli incursion and siege of Beirut to withdraw the Syrian forces to prevent the Israeli Army from invading its first Arab capital. However, soon after the Syrian forces left Beirut, the Lebanese capital became the first Arab capital Israel entered — ignoring U.S. guarantees which U.S. envoy Philip Habib provided. Franjiyah asks: If the Syrian forces withdraw, who is going to guarantee that the Israeli forces will not repeat what they did in Beirut or that no other Lebanese city will receive its share of Israeli attacks and U.S. promises as those given to the Lebanese capital?

Former Premier Accuses Syria of Interference

LD261152 Kuwait KUNA in English 1007 GMT 26 Dec 83

[By Imad Ajami]

[Text] Beirut, Dec 26 (KUNA) — A Lebanese leader warned Monday against serious repercussions in the event the second meeting of the Lebanese National Reconcilation Conference did not convene. In an interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), former premier Sa'ib Salam expressed hopes that the second round of national talks would take place in Lebanon or Saudi Arabia.

Salam, who is one of the nine Lebanese leaders attending the conference, said that adequate preparations should precede the convening of the second session, however, to ensure a successful outcome.

Syria plays a major role in attaining such a result, the former prime minister stressed, adding that the first Lebanese conciliation meeting was the fruit of the ceasefire accord in Lebanon which was discussed and agreed with Damascus. Salam, speaking on developments of the Lebanese-Syrian relations, expressed a belief that Syria was interfering in Lebanese domestic affairs while Lebanon was trying to maintain a good neighborly relation with that Arab state. The Syrians believe that those who do not agree with their views "are enemies and I am not an enemy to Syria but rather a friend who speaks the truth," he underlined.

The Lebanese Muslim leader rejected abduction of individuals in Lebanon and refused "counter-kidnapping just because the Phalangists or the Lebanese forces do that." He questioned the leader of the Phalangist Party Pierre al-Jumayyil on his stand toward that issue and asked him whether he is ignorant of such incidents or he knows and covers up for the perpetrators.

Salam advocated the formation of a national government to clear atmospheres and bring about understanding among all factions. He underlined, however, that he will not form such a government because "I prefer to serve Lebanon while out of the administration."

Declaring his dissatisfaction with the current government's practice in various fields, yet the ex-premier said the prevailing situation is not suitable for the formation of a new government.

Salam affirmed his unequivocal support to Lebanese legitimacy adding "there is no way other than legitimacy for the salvation of Lebanon."

He pointed out that the current administration still distinguishes between Muslims and Christians or neglects such distinction in certain official circles which he declined to name.

The Lebanese Muslim Sunni leader denied that he was forming his own militias under the name of the 'Muqasid Defense Army'. He was surprised at the question whether reports on forming such militias were true and if so whether they were designed to protect the people of pre-dominantly Muslim western Beirut similar to the Phalangist forces who rule eastern Beirut.

The Muqasid establishment is meant to serve the Islamic community in educational, medical, social and civil defense fields, Salam explained. "Our Christian brothers should not presume a wrong idea because an uprise in the Islamic community is for the interests of both the Islamic and Christian communities," he added. The Muqasid civil defense operates ambulance and rescue vehicles in addition to fire brigades with the help of volunteers.

Salam expressed satisfaction over the end of the Dayr al Qamar's siege and expressed hopes the same will take place in the Al Kharrub region in which 125,000 hostages are blocked by Phalangist militias.

Dayr al-Qamar's issue came to an end despite the fact that the Kharrub region is larger, he said, noting that the world was furious about the first because "of more facilities available to our brothers abroad." The Lebanese leader wondered "What do they

want in return for releasing the besieged region, money, politics or just morale."

The former premier renewed charges against the rightist Christian Phalangist Party which sent militias to the predominantly Muslim Kharrub region in the lower Ash Shuf and dispatched others to Mount Lebanon. "There is a certain group within the Phalangist Party who follows former Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's policies," Salam said, adding "I have called them the 'Sharonians' after they were linked with the Sabra and Shatilla massacres in which hundreds of Lebanese and Palestinian victims were slaughtered in addition to committing numerous other crimes."

Sharon has gone but his style remained, he said and pointed out that Sharon has brainwashed members of that group and supplied them with military equipment and provided for their training.

He called on Pierre al-Jumayyil to uncover the group instead of reiterating that his militias include a number of "outlaws".

The Lebanese leader hailed the steadfastness and resistance of the southerners in the face of the Israeli occupation's humiliating practices.

Salam warned that slicing the south from the motherland would terminate the nation of Lebanon. Announcing that he is against dividing Lebanon into cantons and against any type of federation or confederation, Salam said that if Lebanon was divided no Arab country would remain safe.

Salam expressed regret over the explosion incidents in Kuwait and added that "it was not a surprise for me personally since I have once and again warned our Arab brothers that similar incidents will occur in their countries."

If they leave Lebanon to burn, the flames will reach them, he added. The Lebanese leader expected a wave of explosions in other Gulf countries and expressed hopes that the Arabs would learn the lesson if not from Lebanon then from the recent incidents in Kuwait. Asked on the PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli, the former prime minister wished the Palestinian revolutionary cadres would benefit from lessons, correct their march and invest their evacuation in a better way than they did in the past. He highlighted, however, that this does not mean getting rid of the leadership as "dissidents" demand but rather he expressed his keenness on maintaining 'Arafat's leadership since he shoulders responsibilty for the whole cause as a symbol and as a leader. Salam predicted that difficult situations are looming in the Middle East and hoped that matters would not explode as the result would harm all Arabs.

Al-Wazzan Condemns Shelling of Iqlim al-Kharrub

NC281100 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has condemned the shelling of villages in Iqlim al-Kharrub, which has resulted in innocent victims. He said: The continuing tragedies caused by gunmen in various parts of Lebanon have become a dangerous and painful (?practice). After Tripoli and the southern suburb [of Beirut], people are now creating havoc in Iqlim al-Kharrub. In the same way, I condemn all shelling operations by militias of all groups anywhere in Lebanon. I strongly condemn the shelling of Iqlim al-Kharrub, and Shhim town in particular, which has resulted in innocent victims among the civilians and has hit the civil defense center, its vehicles, and some of its men. We have repeatedly drawn attention to, and warned against, kindling the fire of sedition in the Iqlim area and against the forcible evacuation of its peaceful inhabitants who desired to stay behind and set an example of fraternal and national coexistence.

Lebanese Forces on Shelling

NC271058 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Statement issued by 5th Branch of Lebanese Forces on 27 December]

[Text] Our forces have been responding to the socialist artillery emplacements in Shhim for approximately 1 hour and have been inflicting direct hits on them. As a result of the shellfire, and because the armed emplacements are located in residential areas,several innocent casualties have been reported among the inhabitants of Iqlim al-Kharrub . The Lebanese Forces regret to find themselves compelled, in the course of their response to the attacking emplacements, to fire deep in the directions of the attacks emanating from the peaceful residential areas. Therefore, these forces again call on the residents of Iqlim to keep away from the armed socialist positions for their own safety.

Security Arrangements Committee Meets 28 Dec

NC281235 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Contacts are continuing on more than one level to consolidate security in the country. The Security Arrangements Committee convened at its headquarters in Trad Bank at 1200 to deal with urgent issues, mainly the consolidation of the cease-fire and tackling the question of kidnapped persons.

Amal Leader Rejects Government Assurances

NC281203 Paris AFP in English 1128 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Beirut, Dec 28 (AFP) — The Lebanese Government was today striving to appease fears of an Army attack on Moslem areas of the capital, as the latest truce between the Army and Amal Shi'ite militia continued to hold in southern suburbs. Lebanese ministers in the last 24 hours have given public assurances to the Moslem community in the southern suburbs who have voiced fears of an attack by government troops. The head of Amal Militia, Nabih Birri, today rejected these assurances, charging that government forces planned to enter the area. In comments published in the *AN-NAHAR* daily, Mr Birri asked why the Lebanese Army continued to focus on the Moslem suburbs, yet failed to control arms which allegedly flowed to Christian militia in Sabra, north Beirut.

While the city and its suburbs were quiet today, violence continued in the Israeli-occupied south, where six explosions shook the regional capital of Sidon this morning. Three of the blasts were aimed at a building inhabited by Palestinians, one of whom was an employee of the United Nations Works and Relief Agency (UNWRA), reports said. Other explosions occurred along roads.

Today a communique from the Lebanese National Resistance Front said it had carried out 45 attacks on Israeli occupation forces in a month. Operations were being undertaken daily, sometimes at the rate of four or five a day, with rockets and machineguns, the statement said, without adding how many losses the Israelis had suffered.

The withdrawal of Israeli forces "should be imposed and not negotiated," the communique added in a reference to the still-unratified May 17 Lebanese agreement requiring a simultaneous pullout of Israeli and Syrian troops. "Resisting the enemy" is the best way to secure that withdrawal, the communique declared.

Information Minister Dies; Burial Set

JN281115 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1023 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] In Damascus, the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Cabinet, the Information Ministry employees, and the family of the deceased announce with great grief and sorrow the death of comrade Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and information minister, who died from an incurable disease at 0930 today, Wednesday, 28 December 1983.

With the death of Comrade Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, our party and people have lost a struggler who had devoted himself to serving his homeland and nation and the great objectives of unity, freedom, and socialism in which he believed.

His chaste body will be escorted in an official and popular funeral at 0900 tomorrow from Al-Muwasah Hospital in Damascus to the city of Homs, where a big eulogy ceremony will be held during which speeches on behalf of the party, the government, and the family of the deceased will be made. His chaste body will then be buried in its final resting place.

The late minister was born in 1944 in the village of 'Ashiq 'Umar in the Homs province. He graduated from Cairo University in 1965. He assumed several important posts, including secretary of the *AL-BA'TH* newspaper, chief editor of the Syrian Arab News Agency [SANA], chief editor of the *ATH-THAWRAH* newspaper, director general of the AL-WAHDAH establishment, and assistant secretary general of the Arab Journalists Federation. Since 1974, he had served as information minister. Since 1980 he was also a member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command. He was married and had three daughters.

May God rest his soul in peace, make paradise his final abode, and give patience and solace to his family, relatives and comrades.

Commentaries Views Recent 'Arafat Actions

Radio Commentary

JN271532 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT 27 Dec 83

[From the "On the Events" program]

[Text] Following his stopover in San'a', and content with the mistake he had committed against the Palestinian Arab people and their sacred cause, 'Arafat announced that Palestinian action would pass through a new phase that will be disclosed in the near future. After he dropped the false mask behind which he had been hiding for a long time, 'Arafat said that he would continue his plan to reconcile with the Camp David parties.

'Arafat's talk coincided with what was announced in Amman yesterday, based on Jordan Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah's statement that a surprise would be announced during 'Arafat's visit to Jordan and his talks with King Husayn. Neither 'Arafat nor the Jordanian minister disclosed this plan which was expected a long time ago, but official Jordanian sources have said that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, including 'Arafat, will be formed to hold negotiations with Israel. Therefore, the new phase that 'Arafat wants to impose, if he could, on Palestinian action is the announcement of a Palestinian government-in-exile with its headquarters either in Amman or in Cairo.

While 'Arafat is planning to enter into new negotiations with the Jordanian regime on the basis of confederation, and with the purpose of obliterating the Palestinian national identity, Israel yesterday defined its terms for accepting him in a joint delegation under the king or 'Arafat himself when it announced through Knesset member Yossi Sarid that the United States will act positively in dealing with 'Arafat if he recognized Security Council Resolution No 242. Proceeding from this principle, it is obvious that dealing with the United States means dealing with Israel in accordance with that resolution's principles, which considers the Palestine question as merely a cause of refugees.

Last summer, 'Arafat gave Senator Robert McCloskey a written recognition of all the resolutions issued by the United Nations and its bodies, including Security Council Resolution No 242. We also said that 'Arafat's visit to Cairo did not surprise anybody. If we recall this, his forthcoming steps with the Jordanian regime and Israel will also not surprise anybody. Such a step will always lead to such results.

As he has accepted his fall and the fall of his policy, 'Arafat will never find anybody to pity him. He will see that all his henchmen and those who encouraged him to adopt that policy will wash their hands of his treason against his people, cause, and nation. Therefore, the phase that 'Arafat is talking about and the surprise that the Jordanian information minister talked about are the phase of full surrender to the Camp David plan in order to liquidate the cause that the world has known as the Palestine question, which will not even be moved toward autonomy. The situation will be in accordance with a U.S. concept that calls for improving the conditions of the Palestinians in the occupied territories; a concept that the Zionist enemy has recently adopted through the supporters of 'Arafat's policy and the henchmen of the Jordanian regime in the occupied territories. Thus, 'Arafat and the Camp David supporters are seeking to bury every national Palestinian effort to gain recognition of the Palestinian people's national and pan-Arab rights in their homeland represented by their right to self-determination, the establishment of their own independent national state, and the return of the Palestinian refugees to their territories occupied in 1948.

TISHRIN Cited

JN280839 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Press review]

[Text] In its "Behind the News" column, the newspaper *TISHRIN* writes about the new Palestinian stage. It says: The recent political and press reports regarding Yasir 'Arafat's moves confirm that there are Arab sides holding contacts with him in an attempt to appoint him as leader of a bogus Palestinian front whose responsibility will be the handling of future political

processes. This attempt is taking place despite the fact that these sides realize that 'Arafat has lost his last posiiton in the PLO and that he only represents a small number of his loyalists. These reports assert that the rancor of 'Arafat and his supporters has reached a point where they accuse and even reject the name of the PLO on the pretext that the name of the PLO is misinterpreted in the United States and Europe. Thus, 'Arafat's claims that he sought to safeguard the PLO's unity and independence have become clear. 'Arafat has deviated from the PLO's course of struggle and relinquished even the name of the PLO itself. Moreover, he is now searching for another name under whose banners he and those who are submissive and hostile to the Palestinian question, and who ignored the blood of the martyrs can flock around. We do not rule out the possibility that the U.S. Administration would act to save 'Arafat from this impasse by giving him the name of the village leagues.

TISHRIN adds: According to reports, the aforementioned Arab sides have asked 'Arafat for explanations and pledges before they start any political move regarding coordination between 'Arafat and the Jordanian regime. This of course is to guarantee unanimous or semi-unanimous Arab blessing of the initiative and to work for the implementation of this initiative. Thus, 'Arafat's role in service of the capitulatory course of the reactionary forces in our Arab region has become clear. This role is in harmony with the method through which As-Sadat had served the parties to this course, its advocates, and supporters.

Scrutiny of 'Arafat's course shows that the end of this course lies in Reagan's plan, and that this end is not too far away. Despite the desperate attempts to conceal this course — attempts that are accompanied by U.S. promises to find a way out of the Reagan plan impasse and to settle the Palestinian question on the basis of the establishment of autonomy in the West Bank — the United States will not give 'Arafat, his loyalists, and supporters what they hope for, because the objective behind proposing the Reagan plan is not to implement its provisions, but to drag 'Arafat and his likes to agree to this plan in principle, then to compromise even on the minimum level of what they hope for.

TISHRIN continues: In brief, the reactionary Arab sides are asking 'Arafat to lead the capitulatory line among the Palestinians to pave the way for the liquidation of the Palestinian question in accordance with the will of the United States and Israel. 'Arafat is asking these sides to provide him with a cover that is represented by financial support and protection, and to open the closed political venues for him. Nothing will be more useful for the struggle of the Palestinians and our nation against the Zionist enemy than exposing 'Arafat as soon as possible, especially during this declicate and sensitive stage, because the interest of the Palestinian's national struggle necessitates a quantitative sifting and quick crystallization of stands. In fact this will take place within the next few weeks or even days. In the same manner that 'Arafat has deviated from the PLO's course and charter, and the PNC resolutions, and adopted a stand that is hostile to them, he will be deprived of the PLO's cover because he no longer possesses any means to conceal himself using this cover.

TISHRIN concludes: By this sifting process the national Palestinian action will eradicate its blemishes and provide new prospects for the struggle. 'Arafat's fate will be no better than that of Hasim al-Khazandar in Gaza and Yusuf al-Khatib in Nabulus, and the day of judgement is bound to come.

Press on Cairo Visit

JN231010 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Last Downfall" *AL-BA'TH* writes: At last, Yasir 'Arafat has emptied his quiver of all its secrets. The Beirut siege and the invasion of the south were not the result of a decision by Sharon and Begin, and the destruction of Tripoli and maintaining it a hostage in the 'Arafatist hand was not the result of the Tripoli citizens' will, while killing thousands of Palestinians in battles which were not waged for Palestine was not an act of heroism.

AL-BA'TH adds: 'Arafat wanted the war to be against Palestine and not for its sake. He wanted this war to be a war against the Arabs and not against their enemies to win the title of moderate Palestinian.

If Saddam Husayn, King Husayn, Numayri, and others have voided the contents of the Baghdad summit resolutions, this has been because 'Arafat continued to be cordial to As-Sadat and because 'Arafat has been kept for the day when he would void the Palestinian decision of all its revolutionary contents.

In one of his first statements in Tripoli, 'Arafat said that his mission was not over yet and that he had come in a boat under U.S. protection to complete what had not been completed by the ignominous departure from Beirut.

Yesterday, 'Arafat revealed his innermost feelings. In his opinion, the PNC, with all its resolutions and members, does not express any will. The PLO Central Council and the PLO Executive Committee, in 'Arafat's opinion, do not constitute a Palestinian command. In his opinion, legitimacy means that he shakes hands with Camp David and carries out a reconciliation with those who have produced it.

'Arafat stated that one of these days he will turn the table over the heads of all the Arabs. He did not realize that this table will be turned on his head so that Palestine may continue to remain Arab. In Ismailia, 'Arafat inhaled the last breath of air which prevailed over the last meeting between As-Sadat and Begin. Perhaps, he considers Shamir as one of the most outstanding personalities and Reagan as a leader who will fulfill all the hopes of the Palestinians.

AL-BA'TH wonders: Does 'Arafat, however, believe that Palestine is absent so that he can avenge himself on it and on all those who champion it? We believe that Palestine, which lives in the heart of every Arab, has now discarded the most prominent conspirator against its Arab character. After Al-qabbah Palace, there will be the Raghadan Palace and the King David Hotel in occupied Jerusalem. In these palaces, 'Arafat will keep only his new title which is on the lips of every Palestinian. 'Arafat has grasped every opportunity to pounce on the Palestinian gun. He

believes that the humiliating departure from Beirut is a heroic deed, that the Tripoli siege is also a heroic deed, and his embracing Camp David is a heroic deed too. Only those in Western capitals and in the apostate regimes call him a hero as they called As-Sadat. As-Sadat's shameful visit has been called a courageous act, and As-Sadat's recognition of Israel a heroic deed.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The final word will be from the Palestinian masses and the Arab nation. They will judge the 'Arafatist course and will decide his fate because the Palestinian cause did not start with him and because the Palestinian cause burned those who tried to betray it.

Commenting on 'Arafat's visit to Cairo *TISHRIN* writes: Only yesterday, and through a ranking U.S. official, Washington announced that the United States needs new interlocutors, a new As-Sadat. The truth is that there is more than one candidate for this role. But what will the new As-Sadat or the new As-Sadatists offer to the Palestinian people? What will they offer to these people? Will they offer them the return of the West Bank or even one third of the West Bank only? Will it be the Gaza Strip or even one quarter of this strip? Will it be east Jerusalem or even the Jerusalem mosques? We defy the new As-Sadat and the new As-Sadatists, even if they become involved in negotiations, agreements, and visits to the Knesset, to achieve anything other than humiliation and disgrace.

The United States has explicitly explained that Israeli expansionism is as much a U.S. decision as it is a Zionist decision and that this expansionism is not a topic of discussion even in southern Lebanon. Therefore, how would it be possible to discuss it with respect to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip which has been occupied since 1967?

The United States has also explained that its concern for the Palestinians is linked to their signing an official writ conceding their homeland and land. What we say is not new and all the Palestinian resistance factions are well aware of it and have been warning against it. All the Arabs and the honest men in the world are also aware of it.

TISHRIN concludes: What is new is that the conspiracy against the Palestinian cause will enter a decisive stage. This makes all the Palestinian resistance factions dutybound to move quickly and adopt the necessary measures for warding off the dangers to the Palestinian struggle and the Palestinian objectives and aspirations. The pressures currently exercised against Syria, consisting of the threat of a comprehensive aggression, cannot be separated from the suspect moves to drag the Palestinian revolution to the autonomy conspiracy. It has become clear to every Arab struggler that the cohesion among Syria, the Palestinians, and the Lebanese nationalists is the only dam that will prevent the Arab nation from collapsing.

Economic Program To Include Settlement Freeze

TA281127 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] In accordance with the economic program that will be submitted to the Cabinet on Friday, there will be at least a 1-year freeze on establishing most of the settlements planned for Judaea and Samaria. This was learned by our correspondent Gadi Sukenik. Reference is to the postponement of establishing dozens of settlements. Furthermore, a sharp drop is expected in investments in road expansion; other major programs will be frozen including a multi-year plan for piping purified irrigation waters to the Negev from the Dan area, as well as the Netivey Ayalon project [mainly highway construction], and perhaps even the Mediterranean-Dead Sea canal project.

Public Against Settlements

TA280826 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] For the first time in years there has been a change in public positions regarding the settlements. The majority of the public is now against a continuation of the establishment of settlements in Judaea and Samaria. This has emerged from a PORI Institute nationwide poll conducted this month at the request of *HA'ARETZ*.

Of all those questioned, 48.5 percent objected to the establishment of further settlements in Judaea and Samaria, compared with 36.9 percent who supported its continuation. A year ago (*HA'ARETZ* 8 October 1982) 48.5 percent supported the establishment of settlements in the West Bank, compared with 34.5 percent opposed. Two years ago, in October 1981, 58.3 percent supported the establishment of further settlements in the West Bank, compared with 29.2 opposed.

There was greater opposition to a continuation of settlements among the advanced socioeconomic classes of the population. Among people with higher education, academic and administrative professions, people with a high income level and those originating in the countries of Europe and America, the rate of those opposed to a continuation of the settlements rises to almost 55 percent.

The poll covered a representative sample of 1,200 men and women throughout Israel who were given personal interviews.

Peace Now Welcomes Freeze

TA281147 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Here is a reaction we have received to something we broadcast from the minister of finance's program, which he will submit to the Cabinet at its session on Friday, 30 December. Peace Now has reacted saying that it welcomes the finance minister's proposal to freeze the settlements. Those who have been claiming for many years that all the settlement activity should be stopped for national reasons will, like the Peace Now movement, regard positively the stop to all investments in the territories, including those in the existing settlements. The movement will call upon the government to freeze the settlements, and to turn this freeze into a first step in a new peace initiative.

Settlement Council Protests Freeze

TA281235 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza District has published a statement to the effect that the freeze proposed by the finance minister is tantamount to the ideological and political suicide of the government, since this negates its own justification for existence. The coalition parties came to power flying the flag of settlements in Judaea and Samaria, and a freezing of the settlements will thus constitute a cheating of the voters and a strike at the public.

The Movement of Young People for Israel joins MK Yiga'el Hurvitz in his call for establishing a citizens' movement for lowering the standard of living. This movement rejects all attempts at cutting back the settlement budget for Samaria. Its members say that whoever cuts back the budget today will pay far more tomorrow, both economically and in security terms.

U.S. Aid Proposal for Territories Not 'Serious'

TA250818 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Dec 83 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The coordinator of activities in the territories, Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, has returned from a visit to the United States in the course of which he conferred with State Department officials and Secretary of State George Shultz over the issues of U.S. aid to the territories. Our correspondent has learned that defense sources believe that the U.S. intentions on this matter are not serious for the moment and that its proposal is more by way of a trial balloon. The sums mentioned by the Americans are relatively small, some $15 million. Ben-Eli'ezer presented in the United States studies showing that the standard of living in the territories has risen. He suggested that the Americans channel this aid through the multiannual development budget of the Civilian Administration but the United States did not respond to his proposals.

Reagan Promises Help Beyond Military Aid

TA271030 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Dec 83 pp 1,11

[Report by Yosef Harif]

[Text] President Ronald Reagan has informed Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that the United States undertakes to assist Israel beyond the sum of the military aid for next year which will be determined according to Israel's security needs.

President Reagan made these remarks in a message he sent Shamir some time ago. Among other things, the President noted the understandings reached on the military aid to Israel.

In his reply to the U.S. President a few days ago, Shamir mentioned the President's undertaking to maintain Israel's qualitiative edge in the military sphere and thanked him for the role he personally played toward achieving this end. Shamir also expressed the hope that the talks within the framework of the joint U.S.- Israeli political-strategic committee would illustrate the important change in the relations between the two countries. The prime minister's message was sent 1 day before the meeting between 'Arafat and Mubarak.

The wish has been discerned in both Jerusalem and Washingtonn to set aside the dispute that erupted in the wake of the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting so as not to downplay the things both countries have in common. Meanwhile, the date has been set for the visit in Israel of U.S Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John Vessey who will conduct discussions on issues pertaining to strategic cooperation. The U.S. general will arrive on 8 January and will stay 4 days. Israel attaches great political value to this visit in light of the traditional unsympathetic approach of the Pentagon toward Israel.

Political observers assess that the results of the discussions between the defense establishment and the U.S. chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will affect the talks of the political-strategic committee which will begin in Mid-January in Washington and which is scheduled to discuss three main topics: joint planning; joint maneuvers; and the stationing of U.S. equipment in Israel.

Meticulous preparations have been underway in the defense establishment in anticipation of the visit of the U.S. chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff which will be underscored by the mission President Reagan entrusted to the political-military team: to examine ways to increase cooperation between Israel and the United States chiefly aimed, as Reagann himself phrased it, "at devoting special attention to the threat on joint U.S.- Israeli interests which stem from the Soviet Union's growing involvement in the region."

Israel has been informed about the composition of the U.S. delegation to the joint political-strategic committee. The Israeli delegation will be headed by the chief of the General Staff's planning Branch, Major General Menahem 'Eynan, and the Foriegn Ministry's deputy director general, Hanan Bar-On.

Shamir Interviewed on Relations With Jordan, Syria

AU241417 Vienna Television Service in German 2020 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Interview given by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to Austrian Radio-TV correspondent Hans Benedict in Jerusalem "last weekend," recorded in English with superimposed German translation — passages in quotations in the original English]

[Text] [Benedict] First, about Israel's relationship with Jordan: You, Mr Prime Minister, have committed yourself to peace negotiations by personally giving an invitation to King Husayn. On the other hand King Husayn has made it clear since the outbreak of the internal PLO conflict that [passage missing due to technical failure] are these things compatible?

[Shamir] "I cannot see any new orientation of King Husayn but for us King Husayn is the ruler of Jordan. And according to the Camp David agreement we have to negotiate with Jordan, and King Husayn will, of course, in such negotiations represent the stand of Jordan and we will negotiate with him about all issues related to our relations with Jordan and of course about all issues which are a part of the Camp David agreement."

[Benedict] That means the agenda of the talks will be absolutely open as far as you are concerned?

[Shamir] "The agenda is always open for any negotiations. But we say that our position" will be "on the basis of the Camp David agreement and according to this agreement."

[Benedict] Mr Prime Minister, it should be stated in this context that President Reagan's plan for a federation between West Jordan and the Kingdom far exceeds the Camp David agreement. King Husayn has displayed a distinct interest in preserving this plan despite its rejection by Israel or at least in incorporating it into proposals of his own which have a similar content. Thus, everything now depends on you and on your attitude. Would you be ready on the basis of this plan to negotiate with King Husayn?

[Shamir] "Our position about this point, this position is clear and known. And when we come to negotiations and if King Husayn participates in the negotiations he is, of course, entitled to submit any proposals he thinks. But our answers to the question..." We shall take our stand as we think it should be.

[Benedict] Let me sum things up: Did I understand you correctly, that first you will insist on negotiations on autonomy in accordance with the Camp David agreement "which then necessarily would have to lead to a status of autonomy for the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria and [word indistinct — not translated into German]."

[Shamir] "This is our position. We think that the only realistic solution for the problems between us and the Palestinian Arabs, the only solution, is the autonomy. It was accepted in Camp David, it was accepted by us, by Egypt, and endorsed by the U.S. Government."

[Benedict] You first want to enforce this autonomy at a cost and then only, in keeping with the Camp David agreement. In 5 years or after 5 years you want to bring about the final decision. "Then you leave your options open?"

[Shamir] "Let us say that it is not a dogmatic problem; it is not a formalistic question." We simply believe that the problems between us and the Palestinian Arabs can be best solved with autonomy as an autonomy according to "Camp David and according to this solution we have first to agree on the status of this autonomy. And during this period of 5 years we will negotiate about the stable status of this status. And, of course, during these negotiations every party will have the right to bring their proposals."

[Benedict] One more question: Do you really believe, Mr Prime Minister, that King Husayn in his present position and considering the events within the PLO, could be strong enough at all to let himself in on negotiations on the basis of "the Camp David platforms?"

[Shamir] "It is up to him to decide and I agree that any Arab ruler who will be ready to come to negotiate, to come to the table of negotiations, has to have courage and" he must make such a decision "without an Arab consensus. If he wants to have an Arab consensus for negotiations with Israel he will never get it and he will never come to the table of negotiations."

[Benedict] Mr Prime Minister, now about Syria. President Reagan has committed himself in stating that American negotiations with Syria must in any case also involve the Golan Heights even though Israel has annexed the Golan Heights. "How do you react to that?"

[Shamir] "Well, you know there are differences of views between us and the United States about the frontiers of Israel." These differences exist "and we are from time to time discussing this with the United States without a result but these differences do not disturb our friendly relations."

[Benedict] But what happens if President Reagan explicitly insists on Israel making concessions concerning the Golan issue after all? "What will then be your position?"

[Shamir] "What does it mean insist? You know, I think that President Reagan is a very good friend of Israel and will not" do anything "which is in everything related to our security with which we will not agree."

[Benedict] Mr Prime Minister, Syria is now in a phase of rapid rearmament with the most modern weapons from the Soviet direct threat to Israel. Will you some day, in view of this increasing rearmament on the part of Syria, decide in favor of a "preemptive military strike against Syria by Israel?" [Shamir] "Of course the great quantity of arms, of Soviet arms, the quality of these arms supplied by Soviet Russia to Syria to force us." They constitute "a threat to our security, constitute a danger of a future war, but I cannot say what we will do or what we will not do in the future. We are watching very carefully our northern frontiers, the northern frontiers of Israel, and we will do everything possible to defend our security, but we hope and believe that it will not be necessary to have a war with Syria. We would like to prevent it."

[Benedict] Mr Prime Minister, what is your assessment of the situation considering the possibility that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad leave his office, probably for reasons of poor health, "and that his potential successors may take a different line?"

[Shamir] "I would not like to comment on that. This is an internal Syrian problem. It seems to me that if there is any personal change in the leadership of Syria, it will not change their policy."

Shamir Briefs Knesset Committee on 'Arafat Moves

TA271256 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1140 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reviewed 'Arafat's moves and meetings after his departure from Tripoli. Our Knesset correspondent Arye Golan points out that the prime minister and Shim'on Peres leveled criticism at the U.S. support for the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting in Cairo:

[Golan] The prime minister reiterated that Israel regards the meeting held between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat as a serious blow to the peace process and a slap in the face of the Camp David accords. It is clear, Shamir said, that this meeting was not meant to encourage peace and that 'Arafat's statements following his departure from Tripoli are nothing new and do not show even a trace of moderation. The United States argued with us, the prime minister added, whether it knew in advance about the meeting between the two men and said that it only learned about it a few hours before it took place. We have differences of opinion with the United States over Judaea and Samaria and these were also raised during my visit in the United States. However, Shamir emphasized, the meeting between Mubarak and 'Arafat will not promote President Reagan's initiative, contrary to expectations in the United States. The Arab world, Shamir continued, issued a tough reaction to reports in the United States following my visit there. Therefore, aid has recently been increased [several words indistinct] by Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali.

At this point, MK Yitzhaq Rabin of the Alignment posed a direct question to the prime minister: Was there an initiative by King Husayn to meet in Paris with a certain Israeli minister? The prime minister categorically denied rumors to this effect.

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said that the Alignment has not changed its position about the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat; they are not partners to political negotiations. As we said earlier, at this point also Shim'on Peres raised criticism about the Americans. He said: The U.S. serenade about the meeting between Mubarak and 'Arafat was a terrible exaggeration. Peres, however, also criticized the government's reaction saying that we inisist on casting 'Arafat as an hero. 'Arafat thrives on our statements against him, Peres argued. The meeting he held with Mubarak did not disrupt the peace process because such a process does not exist, Peres stated.

MK Abba Eban of the Alignment called on the government to overcome its nervousness. He also criticized the wisdom of the U.S. reaction to 'Arafat's meeting with Mubarak.

MK Ehud Olmert of the Likud also joined in the Alignment's criticism, saying that only U.S. foolhardiness could have created the illusion that the defeated 'Arafat would agree in December — and in the aftermath of Tripoli — to what he could not agree to in April 1983 when King Husayn invited him to join the peace negotiations.

The prime minister referred to this and other issues which we may elaborate upon in the upcoming news bulletins. Concluding

his remarks, the prime minister said that had the Cabinet not reacted to the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting the way it did, the Alignment leaders would have been the first to attack the Cabinet for its silence. Therefore, according to the prime minister, the Cabinet had to react the way it did. Mr Shamir added that he did not subscribe to the opinion that the peace process is over, as Peres and Eban argued. The peace process, the prime minister said, has been stopped unilaterally by Egypt.

Minister Arens on West Bank Problems
TA271138 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens this morning toured trouble spots in the territories as part of his effort to prevent stone-throwing on the roads. He told reporters at the Ad-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem that stonethrowing was a civilian, rather than military problem. It endangered lives of both Jews and Arabs on the roads. Reporter Jerry Cheslow asked the defense minister whether one of the solutions under consideration is the demolition of houses along main roads.

[Begin recording] [Arens] One approach that we are looking at, which is a common one when it comes to road safety, is to make sure that there is some space between the road and the areas where people move or where people live and the extent to which this is possible, of course, this is a good way to go. [sentence as heard]

[Cheslow] What about the possibility of deporting stone-throwers?

[Arens] We are looking at the possibility of deportation as a possible measure of punishment, in addition to those punishments that exist. It does not necessarily have to apply to stonethrowers. Let's say stonethrowers in most cases here are pretty young people who are just going out and misbehaving themselves. [end recording]

Peres Comments on Israeli-Egyptian Relations
TA241255 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres by Jack Katzenell, date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] Peres believes that relations with Egypt have soured over the autonomy issue. What, then can be done now?

[Peres] I would suggest the following things: A. That the two countries will declare that they are ready to start the autonomy negotiations from afresh, from the very beginning. That both governments will give up the models they have formulated over the years, and which led us nowhere. When you reach such a stalemate maybe the best way is to start from the Camp David agreement anew. As a matter of fact in our talks with the Likud people we have suggested it. We have suggested to cross out the model of autonomy that our government has formed under the Begin administration and start the negotiations from zero point as they call it now.

Then I believe that we have to look a little bit more closely to the Tabah issue, and see what is the spirit and the letter of the agreement and try to carry it through. Then I would suggest that even that some of the expressions in the Egyptian press are very unpleasant, inspite of it, that we should continue, with a repeated call, for better relations, for better service to our own people. And finally I would suggest that the small misunderstandings which arise from time to time will be aired out privately and not publicly.

[Katzenell] Are you suggesting that if we study the Tabah question in the letter and spirit as you said, and find that, for example, Tabah does belong to Egypt that we should give it back?

[Peres] I don't think that that's the point. I think that we did agree on a scale of negotiations. If I'm not wrong, there are three different phases of negotiations: One is to negotiate, the other is to conciliate and the third is to compromise, I don't remember exactly the expression, it doesn't matter very much. But first of all let us return to the procedure that we have agreed upon.

[Katzenell] Now, if President Mubarak continues with his moves to be reconciled with the Arab world, is there a danger that the peace treaty with Israel might come to nothing?

[Peres] I think that reason calls to declare on behalf of Israel that we have nothing against the reconciliation of Egypt with the Arab world. On the contrary, it is to our interest that Egypt will regain her central role in the Arab world because the problem with Egypt is not that she is an Arab country, and part of the Egyptians are Arabs. The real promise is that this is a very large, the largest Arab country, that has decided on a different strategy. And if she can lead the Arab world from war to peace it is to our interest.

[Katzenell] But is there a danger that the present cold peace as it has been called, might degenerate into something worse?

[Peres] Yes, there is a danger, but not because of the relations between Egypt and the Arabs, but because of what is taking place between Egypt and ourselves. You see we shouldn't ask for the isolation of Egypt. Why should we? But we should ask and try as hard as we may, to bring our countries and people as close as possible together.

Alignment Accuses Government of Foiling Jordanian Move
TA280837 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The Alignment has claimed that the government recently foiled an initiative by Jordan for talks with Israel, but the government has denied this. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that according to information that reached Alignment between Deputy Prime Minister David Levi and King Husayn of Jordan, on Jordan's initiative. However, because of conditions set by Israel, the Jordanian initiative was cancelled. David Levi himself has denied this. MK Yitzhaq Rabin asked the prime

minister yesterday, at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting, whether Jordan had indeed initiated such a meeting. The prime minister answered in the negative.

Labor Party: Shamir, Reagan Meeting Created Illusion

TA251230 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] According to the Labor Party the differences of opinions that were exposed between Israel and the United States over the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting prove that the visit of the prime minister and the defense minister to Washington created nothing but an illusion. In a communique, the Labor Party said Israel is interested in strong relations with the Americans, but only in accordance with our real interests.

President Herzog Will Not Visit Swaziland

TA250820 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Dec 83 p 1

[Report by the Jerusalem correspondent]

[Text] President Hayim Herzog has called off his visit to Swaziland and he will visit only Liberia and Zaire in mid-January. The official explanation given for this move is that the president did not want to be absent from Israel during the visit of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Political observers in Jerusalem believe that one of the reasons for calling off the president's visit to Swaziland may be that Israel does not want to offend South Africa. The geographical proximity between Swaziland and South Africa would have highlighted the fact that the president was not visiting the latter. Despite the friendly relations between Israel and South Africa an official visit by the Israeli president to Pretoria would seem unfeasible.

Military Attache Office To Open in Tokyo

TA260902 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Dec 83 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Yosef Walter]

[Text] A move to tighten relations between Israel and Japan will be made shortly upon the opening of an Israelli military attache's office in Tokyo. This was decided a few weeks ago in contacts between the two countries. Security sources told *MA'ARIV* that the opening of a military attache's office in Tokyo carries with it great significance for Israel because Defense Minister Moshe Arens regards Japan as a country with immense technological potential which Israel can use and greatly benefit from.

The same sources explained that the issue of security exports from Israel to Japan has not yet been raised because stiff military restrictions have applied to the latter since World War II, but the two countries could seek each other's help in technological developments.

Autopsy To Be Performed on Dead Detained Egyptian

TA262016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Israeli police have gained a court order to perform an autopsy on the Egyptian found dead in an Elat jail a few days ago. He is understood to have committed suicide. An Egyptian newspaper has claimed that he was murdered. The body is to be returned to Egypt after the autopsy is completed. Another Egyptian is being held in the Elat jail for illegally crossing into Israel. More from Reporter Li'ora Mori'el:

[Begin recording] A 54-year old Egyptian, who had crossed the border illegally into Israel 3 days ago, is in the Elat police lockup. He had originally claimed to be Lebanese. The Elat magistrates court sentenced him to 2 days in jail and a small fine, and an order has been given to expel him from the country.

Last week another Egyptian infiltrator was given the same sentence. He was very unruly in jail, the police report, and was therefore assigned a cell to himself. He then reportedly killed himself. His body is now at the Abu Kabir forensic lab, where it will undergo an autopsy to determine the cause of death before being returned to Egypt.

Southern police spokesman Moshe Alexandroni said that a judge has been appointed in Elat to determine the circumstances that led to the suicide. He added that complaints by the Egyptian consul in Elat, who claimed that he was not notified that Egyptian nationals were held in the Elat lockup, were unfounded. Said Alexandroni: The procedure is for the local police station to notify the national police in Jerusalem. We then notify the embassy, in this case in Tel Aviv, within 2 or 3 days. Nowhere in the world does a local station notify a local consul. [end recording]

Reportage on Activities, Incidents in Lebanon

Border Policeman Killed

TA271012 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] The IDF spokesman reports that a border police officer, Chief Inspector Daniyel Stefan, aged 29 of Karmi'el, was killed and another policeman was wounded in a clash with a terrorist squad east of Sidon last night. Three terrorists were killed in the exchanges of fire. Our military correspondent points out that around 0200 last night a border police patrol came upon a terrorist squad in one of the eastern quarters of Sidon. The three terrorists were preparing to plant an explosive device. The IDF forces are searching the area. The funeral of Chief Inspector Daniyel Stefan will take place at 1530 at the Zefat cemetary.

2 Soldiers Slightly Injured

TA271713 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Two IDF soldiers were slightly scratched when an explosive device planted along the roadside exploded as an IDF patrol

was driving by. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the patrol has begun searching the scene of the incident.

Explosion Near 'Ammiq

TA280832 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0825 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] There has been another attempt to attack IDF soldiers in Lebanon. A side charge exploded this morning near an IDF patrol in 'Ammiq, in the eastern sector of Lebanon; nobody was hurt and there was no damage. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that this was the third incident over the past few days in which terrorists have attempted to attack IDF forces in this sector following many months of calm there.

Handgrenade Thrown Near Sidon

TA271510 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] At noon a handgrenade was thrown at an IDF patrol near Ansariyah, about 10 km south of Sidon. There were no casualties. The members of the patrol began searching the area. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that a UNIFIL patrol discovered an explosive device placed on a dirt track near Qana in southern Lebanon. UN sappers dismantled it without any damage being caused.

4 New Roads Paved

TA270854 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] New roads were commissioned this morning in four villages in southern Lebanon. The commander of the Civilian Administration in Lebanon, Colonel Sha'ul Nuri'el, said the funds for the new roads were provided by the Civilian Administration and the village councils. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the materials were purchased in Israel but that the roads were paved by local contractors. The four villages are Ra's Al-Bayyadah, Rumaysh, 'Aytah Ash-Sha'b and An-Naqurah which are close to the Israeli border and inhabited by Christians and Shi'ites.

IRC Announces Dayr al-Qamar Evacuation Over

TA251513 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1450 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Today the International Red Cross [IRC] officially announced the conclusion of the evacuation of refugees from Dayr al-Qamar. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that 1,500 Christians left Dayr al-Qamar at the end of the week in a convoy of 200 vehicles on their way to Beirut via Ad-Damur. As the evacuees were travelling through Kfar Him, they were attacked by Druze forces, and one evacuee was wounded. A total of about 5,000 civilians and about 1,500 Phalangists left Dayr al-Qamar.

Briefs

Australian Envoy Presents Credentials — Jerusalem, 23 Dec (ITIM) — Australia's new ambassador to Israel, Mr Robert Merrillees,presented his credentials today to President Hayim Herzog. [Excerpt] [Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1420 GMT 23 Dec 83 TA]

Foreign Debt — Data gathered by the Finance Ministry shows that Israel's foreign debt has increased by approximately $2 billion in 1983 and now totals over $23 billion. There has also been a worsening in the breakdown of the foreign debt because of an increase in the portion of the short-term debt. [Text] [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Dec 83 p 1 TA]

ALGERIA

SWAPO President Nujoma Arrives in Algiers

LD262256 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Early this evening Sam Nujoma, president of SWAPO, arrived in Algiers.

In a statement to the press, the Namibian leader stressed that the task of the Contact Group consists of a rescue operation of the racist regime of South Africa. Mr Sam Nujoma noted in this context that the French Government has been, and I quote: Fairly consistent in deciding to withdraw from the gang of five who, the president of SWAPO again underlined, were at any rate condemned to disintegrate.

Prime Minister Meets Moroccan Transport Minister

LD260004 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani has received Mr Mansouri Benali, Moroccan transport minister, at Government House.Mr Mansouri Benali carried a message from King Hassan II to Brother President Chedli Bendjedid. The meeting was attended by Brother Salah Goudjil, minister of transport and fisheries, and the deputy secretary general of the Foreign Ministry.

It should be recalled that the Moroccan envoy, whose mission comes within preparations for the upcoming Islamic summit scheduled for January 1984 in Casablanca, Morocco, arrived this afternoon in Algiers where he was welcomed at Houari Boumediene International Airport by Brother Salah Goudjil and the Moroccan charge d'affaires in Algeirs.

Reportage on Fifth FLN Party Congress

LD240032 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The Algerian people have lived through a historic event during the past 4 days, and look with full attention to the results that have emerged from it and that undoubtedly have lived up to their aspirations for progress, prosperity, and a better future. This event was the convocation of the Fifth FLN Party Congress, during which the delegates concentrated on carrying out a comprehensive and objective evaluation of the course of the revolution.

In light of this evaluation, an ambitious strategy was drawn up defining the course of the revolution and defining its steps in the coming stage.

As is known, the work of the congress was characterized by the report presented by Brother President Chadli Bendjedid in his capacity as party secretary general. In the report, he made a deep analysis and completely objective evaluation of all the revolution's achievements in the field of building and developing all sectors in realization of the aspirations, expectations, and basic choices of our people, and in cooporation with the principals of our revolution and its objectives.

In addition to the report of the brother president, the congress heard regional reports and reports from the Algerians Society in Europe, the National Popular Army, and the vocational and professional organizations and mass organizations. These reports reflected matters that are the primary concern of all our people's factions and their aspirations in the desired socialist society. The reports affirmed the need for maximum efforts for the realizaton of the motto: Work and Dignity.

This is the motto under which the Fifth FPN Party Congress was held. Brother Bendjedid reaffirmed the need for its immediate implementation during his valuable speech following his election as secretary general of the party and his designation as a candidate for the presidency of the Republic by the Central Committee, which is elected by the congress and consists of 164 members, 31 of whom are additional members [idafiyan].

The congress operated in part through the committees originating from it. They were the Committees of Organization, General Policy, Building and Construction, Industrial, Agriculture and Irrigation, Forestry and Marine Fishing, Social Affairs, and National Economic Organization. Those committees have submitted the results of their work to the congress, which formulated and approved them in the form of resolutions and recommendations. The following is a brief description of the resolutions.

We shall begin with the general policy resolution, which covered two parts: domestic and foreign policy.

The second part of the general policy resolution covers Algeria's foreign policy. This affirmed Algeria's primary foreign policy objective as being the creation and preparation of a climate conducive to bolstering the country's independence and enabling it to guarantee its security and asuming control of its development.

In this regard, the congress affirmed the need to halt the current tendency toward engaging in an arms race and the need for respecting the independence and sovereignty of peoples, which is the true guarantee for the establishment of real world peace and security. The congress also affirmed the need to continue to support and help national liberation movements.

After pointing out that the policy of nonalignment today constitutes more than at any other time, the best guarantee for the independence of peoples and emergence of the Third World as an active bloc in the functioning of international affairs, the resolution spoke of building a Greater Arab Maghreb. The resolution affirmed Algeria's readiness and determination to work for the building of this establishment, which is shared by the Maghreb peoples and constitutes a step along the path to Arab unity.

The congress reaffirmed Algeria's profound conviction of the need to solve the Western Saharan problem, which it said will help to effectively speed up the dynamism of building a Greater

Arab Maghreb. Tunisia and Algeria have already laid down the first bricks of this edifice by signing the Treaty of Fraternity and Concord, and which was further augmented by the recent addition of Mauritania to the treaty.

After affirming Algeria's support for the just cause of the Saharan people, the resolution called for the opening of direct negotiations between the two warring sides — Morocco and the Polisario.

Regarding the border agreements concluded between Algeria and its neighbors in the past few years, the resolution said that these agreements stem from Algeria's sincere desire to create true cooperation within the framework of positive neighborly relations.

Regarding Algeria's attitude toward the situation in the Middle East basin and Arab world, the Palestinian question, the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, and the situation in the African Continent, the resolutions reiterated the congress' commitment to support the peoples' right to self-determination and noninterference in the affairs of others, and to work for solving conflicts by peaceful means in addition to the creation of a new and just international economic system.

The congress has also approved the resolution prepared by the Organization Committee, which defined the amendments to the party's draft Basic Law, which increases the number of articles from 131 to 133.

In the field of information, the congress decided to enlarge the radio and television networks in order to cover the entire national homeland and gradually extend into Africa and the Middle East.

The resolution called for the development of the basic cultural cadres and the creation of university diplomas in the fields of religious affairs and the encouragement of research in Islamic sciences. It also contained the proposals made by the congress for the promotion of the pharmaceutical industry and hygiene equipment.

Officials Elected, Resolutions Adopted

LD241327 Algiers APS in English 1038 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Algiers, 24/12/83 (APS) — The FLN Congress was ended on Thursday evening with the re-election of President Chadli Bendjedid as the party's secretary general and the FLN unique candidate to the presidential elections under ovations of 5000 congressmen meeting since last Monday here. Previously, the congress elected the new Central Committee composed of 164 members including 31 deputies and adopted resolutions presented by rapporteurs of commissions.

The last session of work was closed by an allocution by President Chadli Bendjedid who called for mobilization of all militants and citizens to materialize the congress motto: "Work and rigor to guarantee the future" — the adopted resolutions were elaborated upon by the different commissions resulting from the congress i.e.

— The Organic Commission.

— The Commission of General Policy.

— The Commission of Land Improvement and Infrastructures.

— The Commission of Industry.

— The Commission of Agriculture, Hydraulics, Forestries and Fishing.

— The Commission of Social Affairs and Education.

The headlines of decisions and recommendations concerning the organization of national economy were put forward by the congress spokesmen in a press conference. Henceforth, the congress decided:

— To give priority to the sector of agriculture and other allied sectors.

— To increase the outcome of national enterprises.

— To put up a strict planning of production at all levels, especially the commune and wilaya, [as received] the unit of production, the enterprise and the sector, respecting in the meantime the priority demands of national development.

— To work so as to improve efficiency and the outcome of economy.

— To take new measures in the field of external trade, to encourage exports.

— To carry on the implementation of wages policy in the framework of the workers' general statute.

— To carry on the reconsideration of the taxation system.

As concerns the private sector, and conforming to the national charter stipulations, the congress decided to intervene in the national economy, with respect to the objectives of the national development plan, and work so as to meet the conditions necessary to supply it with the necessary equipment and raw materials.

As for land development, the congress fixed general orientations for the coming fourth year.

It thus decided to direct the national economy toward regions of Les Hauts Plateaux on the one hand, and mountain regions of the south and frontier zones on the other, in order to further meet the conditions of their development.

As regards industry, the congress decided:

— To develop a short and long-term strategy of development.

— To establish industrial structures -- considering their volume so as to master their management and ensure their production on the one hand -- set up other jobs, respect (?cost) and deadlines of achievement, get the savoir-faire and preserve the strategic or urgent character of investments on the other hand as concerns technology, the congress decided to move ahead in terms of

acquisition of technical progress and master the production system. It is also necessary to plan industry to conform to objectives of land development, the mouth piece [as recieved] concludes.

Communique on Presidential Elections

LD241905 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] In accordance with the provisions of Law No 80-08 dated 25 October 1980 and particularly Article 109 which stipulates:

"Presidential elections shall be held within the 30 days that precede the expiration of the mandate of the president of the republic," in application of Decree No 83 dated 24 December 1983,setting the date of the presidential elections and summoning the voters to the polls, the minister of the interior announced this evening that the voters have been summoned to take part in the election of the president of the republic on Thursday, 12 January 1984, between 0800 and 1800 hours."

Special arrangements will subsequently be announced in reference to the participation of members of the security and prevention corps in the vote, as well as voters of both sexes in remote areas continues the Ministry of the Interior's communique.

We must point out that the 5th Congress of the National Liberation Front (FLN) has designated President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the FLN, as candidate to the presidency of the republic.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Austria's Kreisky 27 Dec

LD280009 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received the former Austrian chancellor, Bruno Kreisky, who is currently visiting the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The former Austrian chancellor earlier in the evening attended part of the debates of the masses of the basic popular congress at Suq al-Jum'ah on issues raised during the current session.

Kreisky followed from a short distance the earnest character of these debates, which stems from the spirit of responsibility in making decisions, and which manifests the direct popular democracy and affirms the power of the people.

Mauritanian Leader Sends Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD270251 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received a written message from Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee of National Salvation and head of state of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, in which he praises the efforts made by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah for putting an end to the fratricidal fighting in Tripoli, northern Lebanon and for the success of this effort in directing the rifle at the enemy. He notes that good results have been achieved thanks to the efforts of the Jamahiriyah in this respect, and that further vigilance and rigor [saramah] is needed to avoid further deterioration of the Arab situation.

In his message to the brother leader, the Mauritanian head of state stresses that Mauritania will continue to adhere to its firm stances in the service of the sacred Arab causes, topped by the Palestinian issue. He also emphasizes that Mauritania will not spare efforts in the consolidation of the bonds of fraternity and cooperation between the two countries and the two fraternal peoples of the Jamahiriyah and Mauritania.

JANA Editor Criticizes Arabs Receiving 'Arafat

LD280925 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Dec (JANA) — JANA political editor writes:

Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with the president of the Egyptian regime has been interpreted by imperialist circus in Washington as a success for U.S. efforts to end the armed Palestinian struggle and a successful test by a regime which indulges in treachery, described by President Reagan himself as the best regime — whose experiment of coexisting with Israel could be made use of — to resuscitate his capitulatory scheme.

Despite the wave of provocation created by this meeting and directed against Palestinian and Arab feelings, Yasir 'Arafat is still finding support from those who are receiving him and collusion for what he has achieved with Husni Mubarak, namely to enter into capitulationary negotiations with the Zionist enemy partnered by the Jordanian regime.

The justifications offered by those who are receiving Yasir 'Arafat, that they are with the Palestinian revolution and that they are with Palestinian right and that they act and devote their authority and decisions to respond to Palestinian hopes and aspirations for liberation and return, are unacceptable because they are not sincere. The siege of Beirut, the massacres of Sabra and Shatila are best proof and evidence of the collapse of credibility, because at that difficult time they remained silent and were satisfied with reporting rhetorical slogans for show purposes. Hence, receiving Yasir 'Arafat is one of the hated forms of hypocrisy. Moreover, it is more dangerous because 'Arafat met the president of a regime which recognized the Zionist enemy, defended its connection with it and devoted itself (?openly) to the Camp David accords which means pan-Arab treachery and cardinal sin.

Yasir 'Arafat represents one of the links of this treacherous plot, hence there are no justifications for considering him representative of Palestinian legitimacy or the Palestinian cause. Yasir 'Arafat is finished and is of no value. He openly declares for relinquishing the rifle and joining the caravan of negotiations and surrender. We consider that any meeting with him, under any

justification or in any form, is a disgrace and a shame. Any meeting with Yasir 'Arafat must be considered as accepting his capitulating options and blatant sympathy with his treacherous inclinations.

Hypocritical voices and renegade trumpets will not intercede for Yasir 'Arafat. Old women singing at weddings will be of no use to him because he is under indictment and in isolation. Palestinian and Arab, and the masses of the Palestinian revolution and the masses of the Arab nation await the breaking of a new dawn for the armed revolution struggle by declaring an alternative leadership which will restore to the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian rifle the hope of continuing the struggle and escalating the revolution against the Zionist enemy.

MOROCCO

Foreign Minister Leaves for Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon

LD271811 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Casablanca, 27 Dec (MAP) — The Moroccan minister of foreign affairs, Abdelouahid Belkeziz today left Mohamed V airport in Casablanca for Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon with royal messages to these countries' leaders containing invitations to attend the FourthIslamic summit conference which will be held in Casablanca in mid-January next year. Dr Belkeziz was seen off at the airport by the Iraqi ambassador in Rabat, Ahmad Mudhafar al-Jaylani.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR President on Possible Talks With Morocco

LD281205 Algiers APS in English 1018 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Haouza, 28/12/83 (APS) — Mr. Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, Polisario Front secretary general addressed a message to heads of state, OAU member countries, reaffirming Polisario front and SDAR availability to start direct negotiations with Morocco on the conditions and notices fixed by the 19 OAU summit.

Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz recalled the OAU implementing committee's efforts, invoking in this connection the OAU mission composed of the Ethiopia foreign minister and OAU interim secretary general, a mission which, he said, shows the uncontested will of Africa to hold, by itself, its responsibilities towards problems so as to put an end, through a peaceful and political way, to a conflict which consequences are serious and dangerous".

This mission, the Saharan president went on, was to concretize the implementating committee's one -- the necessity to lead Morocco and the Polisario Front to start direct negotiations so as to set up conditions and modalities of a free, general and regular referendum in Western Sahara. "It's thus the second [as received] after the meeting of the OAU implementating committee held last September 21, Mr. Mohamed Abdelaziz said, adding that the failure falls only on Morocco which shows a blatant contempt of the OAU Charter and its principles. Underlining the current OAU president's determination to work so that the peace plan adopted by the 19 summit be fully implemented, the SDAR president also considered the UN decision which confirmed this in the 38 session of the General Assembly in order to put an end to the conflict opposing SDAR to Morocco.

"It is thus, Mr. Abdelaziz said, a support for the OAU and an encouragement to the implementing committee to assume its responsibilities.

A similar message was also addressed to permanent members of the UN Security Council and many other heads of state.

GUINEA

CNR Session Ends; Two Resolutions Adopted

AB271020 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The 54th session of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR], which opened on 23 December 1983, ended today in the 2 October Hall of the People's Palace in Conakry under the chairmanship of President Ahmed Sekou Toure, supreme leader of the revolution. The meeting adopted two resolutions, one on the reorganization of the public communities and finance and the other on production and marketing. Following is a report by Alpha Kabile Keita:

The 54th session of the CNR, which held three plenary sessions and two committee meetings, fully discussed all the problems on its agenda. These include the measures of application of the decisions of the 12th party congress, the financial situation, the debts of the National Bank for Agricultural Development, and the production and marketing campaigns. The third plenary session held today, Monday, which amended and adopted the two draft resolutions, was the closing session of the 54th session of the CNR. This closing session also examined various matters of regional and national interest.

The two draft resolutions adopted after amendment by the 54th session concerned the reorganization of the local public communities and finance as well as production and marketing. These two draft resolutions were presented respectively by the secretary of state for state control and the governor general of Nzerekore Province. They stressed all the measures and necessary means connected with the correct functioning of the new public communities at the three levels — the revolutionary local authorities, the revolutionary district authorities, and the revolutionary regional authorities. They also emphasized the expressed determination to urge the Guinean people to work hard to ensure all their needs, particularly self-sufficiency in food in 1984.

The closing session was particularly a meeting of frank and democratic dialogue concerning various problems. As the supreme servant of the people [President Toure] has always taught us, the revolution demands that everything should be examined in detail. Therefore, all the regional and national problems affecting the interests of our hard-working people were brought up, examined, and solved with dynamism by the 54th session of the CNR. The problems examined included the cataclysm that has shaken 33 of the country's 35 administrative districts; the lack of liquidity in the banks owing to the reactionary spirit of the traders who have engaged in an unfortunate hoarding of money; roads, transportation; packing cases and wrappings; the supply of fuel to the telephone stations of the posts and telecommunications department, and so on.

Concerning the solution to the various problems, a special cabinet meeting has been summoned for Tuesday, 27 December, to discuss the ways and means of executing the general development budget and the (?role) of the banks. Similarly, the National People's Assembly has been summoned for Tuesday to examine the bill on the local public communities and the budget estimates.

Toure Views Currency Devaluation, Earthquake

AB271150 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Address by President Sekou Toure to the closing session of the 54th session of the National Council of the Revolution in Conakry on 26 December — recorded]

[Excerpts] Henceforth, each revolutionary local authority [village council] will have an official budget. Each administrative district and region will also have a recurrent budget as well as a capital budget. The session has defined the fiscal system and the obligations of the taxpayers to ensure the correct functioning of the public services created in the villages and in the administrative districts and regions. The sharing out of the regional development fund between the three groups took into account the concrete tasks to be executed by them for the benefit of the villages and the administrative districts and regions. In our opening address, we called for the increase of the regional development fund. This decision cannot astonish anyone; it is the expression of the need for ensuring the rapid concretization of the party-state.

At present, none of the revolutionary local authorities possess modern headquarters buildings, adequate administrative blocks, or schools and dispensaries worthy of the Guinean revolution. The revolution therefore appeals to all people with creative initiatives to ensure that the transition period is put to good use, and that by 30 September all the village councils may proudly demonstrate their capacity by presenting to the public their headquarters buildings, administrative blocks, schools, dispensaries, and markets.

One of our party branches has mentioned the problem of lack of liquidity by the bank established in its area. This problem is due to the reactionary spirit of some Guinean traders. These traders are not aware of their interests, because their attitude compromises dangerously their own interests. The hoarding of money has always been a negative phenomenon which adversely affects the economic situation of any country in which it is practiced. These traders refuse to deposit in the banks the profits they make from their activities. They keep them at home. Perhaps they want to compel the state to reintroduce a policy it has condemned with the precise aim of avoiding anything that may affect the vlaue of our national currency. I mean that they want to compel the state to engage in the unjustified printing of currency. It was the state that created the national currency. The state has a large amount of money at the National Currency Board. Therefore, nothing could stop it from ordering the circulation of an additional 1 billion, 2 billion, or 10 billion [sylis]. Nothing could stop it from ordering the printing of more money. But if it does this, the money circulating in Guinea will finally lose its value each time there is a new unjustified printing of currency. Therefore, it is to ensure that these traders do not lose their fortune that the state has refused to issue new currency for the past 6 years. The inclination of keeping currency notes in safes and even in mattresses and in ceilings is an antinational and reactionary inclination.

We appeal to all traders and to all wealthy Guineans to deposit their fortune in our banks within 60 days. If the monetary situation is not adequately stabilized after this deadline, we will

make a decision concerning the devaluation of the national currency. We declare this publicly after having refused categorically to yield to all external pressures with the aim of safeguarding the interests of Guineans who have money. The poor who have nothing are not worried about any possible revalorization or devaluation of the national currency. A devaluation would affect only the rich. We have refused so far to devalue our national currency, but if the rich refuse to have confidence in their own banks, we will make a decision concerning the devaluation.

On 22 December, our country experienced a veritable calamity that affected the entire nation. Only two of our 35 administrative districts have been spared: the districts of Lola and Yomou. All the remaining districts have felt the effects of the earthquake. Thirty-three districts have been affected by the disaster, but it is the district of Gaoual that suffered most in human life and material damage. There was some damage in the other districts where many buildings were affected. In Conakry, the Hotel de L'Independance and the imposing buildings of (Bouldinie) have not been spared. They show cracks caused by the earthquake which was very violent. National solidarity was spontaneously organized to assist the victims and the needy in Gaoul district and particularly in the locality of Koubia. But what is comforting and of which we must be proud is the international response to our appeal. Considerable assistance has been placed at Guinea's disposal for the benefit of the populations of Gaoual District. A management committee has been set up and it has been called upon to be completely honest. However important they may be, all the donations are exclusively meant for the victims of the calamity.

LIBERIA

Accused Coup Plotters Appear Before Tribunal

AB272212 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Nineteen military personnel and civilians accused of plotting to overthrow the ruling People's Redemption Council [PRC] government, today briefly appeared before the Special Military Tribunal.

The 19 included Captain Johnny B. Herring, Mohamed Winpeer, Major Kalanko Luo, Major Moses Duopo, Mr Harry Nuah, (Yafur Doye), Private Paul Tuah, First Lieutenant Victor Togba, and Mr Dustin Sannakwa. Others were Captain Arthur Bollo, Private Edward Delaquis, Private Wilfried Sannie, Jose Cooper, Darby K. Wansolier, Sergeant Moses K. Quiah, Sergeant Y.C. Kiaway, Abdullai Doumbia, Colonel John Nuah, and Captain Alan B.C. Davis.

The 19 accused have been charged with high treason, contravention of PRC Decree No 2, and violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice [UCMJ]. PRC Decree No 2 and the UCMJ act forbid the conspiracy of persons or security officers and government officials to engage in acts geared toward the undermining of the socioeconomic stability of the government. It also forbids acts which intend to overthrow the government by force.

The trial, however, was postponed until tomorrow morning based upon a complaint from the defense counsel, Captain George Tuley, to the court that the prosecution had failed to submit charges and specifications of the accused to him for his observation. Capt Tuley told the tribunal that because of failure on part of the prosecution to submit the charges and specification of the accused to him, he could not adequately defend the alleged coup plotters.

The tribunal ruled that the trial be postponed and ordered the prosecution to immediately furnish the defense counsel with the charges and specifications on the accused. The trial continues tomorrow morning at 1000.

Liberia Successfully Negotiates Debt Rescheduling

AB272220 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Finance Minister G. Alvin Jones, at the head of a five-member delegation, has returned home from Paris, France, where he successfully negotiated a debt-rescheduling payment on behalf of the Liberian Government under the Paris Club. The Finance Ministry release disclosed that representatives of the participating creditor countries met in Paris on 22 December with the Liberian delegation to examine Liberia's request to alleviate her external debt service obligation.

The financial recovery effort undertaken by the Government of Liberia was welcomed by the participating countries. They noted with satisfaction the setting up of an economic and financial program by Liberia supported by the standby agreement with the IMF which was adopted by the executive board of the Fund on 14 September 1983.

UPPER VOLTA

Enthusiasm for Sankara Regime Seen Waning

AB261040 Paris AFP in English 0833 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Ouagadougou, Dec. 26 (AFP) — The speeches are being toned down, local revolutionary defence committees seem to have run out of steam, and the enthusiasm of the first few months of Upper Volta's radical young regime is waning. The authorities in Captain Thomas Sankara's government, which took power on August 4, do not deny that the revolution appears to be marking time. "It must now enter a new phase," they say.

One fervent supporter of Captain Sankara and his National Revolutionary Council commented, "On the morning of August 4 thousands of people from my district responded in the street to Captain Sankara's appeal to establish revolutionary defence committees. But today attendance at our meetings is dropping and volunteers for the jobs we do are fewer and fewer."

The situation is said to be similar throughout Ouagadougou's defence committees, which were meant to be the spearhead of the revolution at all levels of society and employment. This feeling of lassitude appears to be shared by the population at

large, whether for or against the new regime. There is talk of the reappearance of old political differences, and a large number of activists in the defence committees who have joined to eradicate a doubtful past. [sentence as received] The effect is felt in the committees. Several have been dissolved for misappropriation, a reliable source said, and some meetings in the capital had ended in pitched battles in the street, according to several militants.

Since the end of last month the government weekly *CARREFOUR AFRICAIN* has been expressing concern over the real danger of a general exhaustion of the revolution. And circles close to the National Council admit that the euphoric phase is over, when the most "revolutionary" decisions were taken. These included the house arrest of "corrupt" former politicians, a wholesale purge of hundreds of civil servants and army officers, an administrative reshuffle in the provinces, and the establishment of a "Revolutionary Solidarity Fund" fed by voluntary contributions, which is said to be a "success."

Since then the authorities have toned down their activities, turning their attention to the major preoccupation of the budget, which the National Council says is being calculated to the last cent.

"The revolution must now enter a new phase, one of deliberate action by the most forward elements, the advance-guard," these same militant circles add. They recognize that in spite of repeated purges doubtful elements persist in the defence committees, but, they insist, "these elements will eventually realise that membership is not a sinecure."

For the radicals, the feeling of lassitude in the revolutionary committees is a good thing. "The bourgeois elements are leaving. The revolution is growing in purifying itself," they say. The methods are available "to give renewed vigour" to the committees, whose precise role will be defined in statutes to be published next month.

The change in pace is most notable in the speeches. The period of populist diatribes appears to be over, and the repeated refer ences to a plot organised abroad by former politicians with the aid of mercenaries, which were so common in October, are now much fewer. The stress is rather on the "internal enemy," characterised by "bourgeois and counter-revolutionary behaviour." No particular group or class is singled out, but in the National Council "certain reactionary trade unions" are now openly spoken of as "enemies."

The root of this conflict lies in the establishment of revolutionary committees in places of work. An informed source said that three trade unions, which had previously kept a low profile — the Voltan Organization of Free Trade Unions, the National Confederation of Voltan Workers and the Trade Union of Voltan Workers — recently asked for a meeting with Captain Sankara to discuss the problem. A fourth union, the powerful "anti-imperialist" Voltan Trade Union Confederation, is a fervent supporter of the government.

Two other social groups are also the object of close attention by the authorities: traders and businessmen, and the traditional chiefs.

The 50 per cent fall in imports in the year to last September was clear evidence of the anxiety in the business world over the new regime. If this turns to open hostility the result would be a serious challenge to the authorities. Already traders have seen their role as middlemen between the National Cereals Office and the consumer as regards grain distribution handed over to the revolutionary committees, but the government, after initially attacking the attitude of "some rotten businessmen," are now trying to restore confidence in assuring this class that it did not intend to disturb the free operation of the market.

As regards the traditional chiefs, who have great influence among the Mossi, Upper Volta's ethnic majority, rumours difficult to confirm say that they are subjected to harrassment. One rumour, which amused some people and shocked others, said that the "emperor" of the Mossi, the Moro Naba, who because of his position never used to pay his electricity bills, had now had his supply cut off.

On the other hand sources close to the National Council said that no measures had been taken against the chiefs. While the regime wanted to see some of their feudal powers disappear, their moral authority was considered generally "positive." However certain national leaders make no secret of the fact that the decision to redivide Ouagadougou administratively was connected to the authority some chiefs had in their respective districts.

Whether the "new phase" of the revolution will be marked by new internal upheavals is uncertain at the moment. But the announcement that certain leaders of previous regimes are to go before revolutionary courts on January 3 could act as a catalyst. Voltans appear very aware of this point, whatever their political convictions. The Voltan Trade Union Confederation, which backs the trials, says they will be a "test of truth for the authorities," and observers agree they could force various social and economic classes to clarify their political stances.

ANGOLA

Defense Ministry: Two RSA Mirage Fighters Downed

AB271240 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] A communique from the Ministry of Defense indicates that two Mirage fighters of the racist South African Air Force were shot down by our anti-aircraft forces on 25 December while 12 of their planes were carrying out a bombing raid on the town of Cahama. The same sources indicate that our Armed Forces and the racist forces engaged in a violent clash in the regions of Cahama and Cuvelai.

5 Downed 12-25 Dec

MB271316 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] The day before yesterday South African aircraft in groups of two carried out reconnaissance flights over the municipalities of Mulondo and Cahama. In Cahama municipality the enemy intensified his attack with heavy weapons fire. On the same day the Pretoria troops bombed the municipalities of Cuvelai, Mulondo, and Cahama, killing dozens of people and wounding hundreds of others — all of whom are peaceful citizens.

Our forces have been remaining firm and determined to repulse the invading enemy, who from 12 December up until the day before yesterday had already lost five aircraft — four Mirages and one MK-2 Impala — which were brought down in the areas of Cahama, Mulondo, Cuvelai, and Caiundo.

UNITA Releases Portuguese, Other Prisoners

LD241900 Lisbon in Portuguese to Europe 1300 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] has announced the release of five Portuguese nationals and other citizens of different nationalities taken prisoner on 13 November in the Angolan province of Moxico. In addition to the aforementioned five Portuguese nationals, the report gives no further details about the [words indistinct] reasons or even the condition of the now released hostages.

Foreign Minister Assails U.S. 'Subversive Activity'

MB280620 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Angolan Foreign Affairs Minister Paulo Teixeira Jorge has accused the United States of (?using) subversive activity against the Government of the People's Republic of Angola. The Angolan diplomat, who was giving an interview to TASS, said that the United States is seeking to topple the Angolan Government with the aid of South Africa and the UNITA puppet group.

Paulo Jorge also condemned Washington's threats against Cuba and Nicaragua, as well as its participation in the crushing of the national liberation movement in El Salvador.

Sassou-Nguesso Arrives on Official Visit

MB271333 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT Dec 83

[Text] The chairman of the Congolese Workers Party and president of the People's Republic of Congo, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, arrived in Luanda this morning on a 2-day official and friendly visit to our country.

At the 4 February International Airport the Congolese head of state was received by the chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, members of the government and of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee of the party, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to our country. At the airport the Congolese president also received a warm welcome from Luanda residents, members of the party youth, mass, and social organizations, and the Congolese community residing in Angola.

Immediately after the arrival of the Congolese president a private meeting was expected to be held at Futungo de Belas between the two heads of state. Talks are expected to begin this afternoon between a delegation of the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party led by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and the presidential delegation of the People's Republic of Congo.

Details of Itinerary

AB271140 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Excerpt] According to the program of the president's visit, at 1530 today, the Congolese leader will lay a wreath at the tomb of the immortal President Agostinho Neto, which will be followed immediately by official talks. Tonight, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos will offer a dinner in honor of his guest. President Sassou-Nguesso will visit the Angolan Cement Works tomorrow and later receive members of the Congolese community living in Luanda.

The departure of the Congolese leader is scheduled for tomorrow at 1700 just after the end of the official talks.

MAURITIUS

Prime Minister Introduces Bill for Republic

MB170734 Port Louis Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Aneerood Jugnauth, introduced a bill in the Legislative Assembly yesterday afternoon, a bill which would allow Mauritius to accede to a republic. The proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were carried live on television. The debate lasted more than 6 hours. The opposition proposed 12

amendments to the bill, and all of them were rejected. At the third reading, when a vote on the bill was taken, the opposition abstained and the required support of a majority of votes was not obtained. The next sitting of the Legislative Assembly is due on Tuesday, 19 December [date as heard].

MOZAMBIQUE

Military Chief: 3,000 'Armed Bandits' Captured

MB271845 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] The chief of the general staff of the Mozambique Armed Forces, FPLM [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique], Lieutenant General Sebastiao Marcos Mabote, gave a press conference this afternoon to the national news media during which he reviewed the military situation in the country in the context of the fight against the armed bandits.

Lt Gen Mabote said that more than 3,000 armed bandits have been captured, as well as large quantities of arms, within the framework of an offensive launched in March this year in the provinces of Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, Sofala, and Zambezia.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Leader Nujoma Condemns RSA Offensive

MB271323 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] South Africa's offensive into Angola has been called a continuation of Pretoria's aggressive policy. Condemnation comes from SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma. He was speaking last night on his arrival in Algiers. He called the attack a prolongation of the aggressive policy applied by the Pretoria regime since 1981. Last week South Africa announced that it had launched a campaign against SWAPO guerillas in Angola. The Algerian news agency, which reported Nujoma's arrival in the north African state, did not say why Nujoma was in the country nor how long he would be there.

SOUTH AFRICA

Viljoen Warns Cubans, Angolans Not To 'Interfere'

MB280845 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] In Pretoria, the South African Defense Force has said that South African forces are continuing their offensive in southern Angola in an attempt to stop wide-scale terrorist infiltration into South-West Africa/Namibia. The chief of the South African Defense Force, General Constand Viljoen, has warned the Cuban and Angolan Government forces not to interfere with South African operations to track down and kill SWAPO terrorists.

U.S. Concern Over RSA Angola Incursion Noted

MB280911 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The United States says it is concerned about reports of fighting involving South African forces in Angola, and says it is willing to help to arrange a disengagement. South Africa said earlier that its forces had clashed with about 200 SWAPO terrorists.

American State Department spokesman Mr John Hughes said the United States was concerned about reports of wide-scale fighting in southern Angola, and it was hoped that all sides would exercise restraint so not to jeopardize prospects for restoring the disengagement proposal. Mr Hughes said the United States was willing to aid the disengagement process in any way it could.

South Africa has offered to pull its forces out of southern Angola if the Angolan Government will take steps to prevent SWAPO from attacking civilians in South-West Africa/Namibia. The offer has been rejected by Angola and by SWAPO.

Pik Botha Assesses Southern African Situation

MB230756 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1730 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Interview with Foreign Minister Pik Botha on "Rekenskap" program by reporter Hendrik de Bruin; date not given — recorded]

[Text] [De Bruin] Mr Botha, the year 1983 can be nailed many things. Domestically, it was the year of the referendum. It was the year of great depression, the drought, increased terrorism, increased arms buildup in southern Africa and close to our borders, and there have been attacks over and over again. Externally, there were numerous dramatic events. Has 1983 surprised you?

[Botha] No. No, I cannot think of any notable surprise produced on the international front for South Africa during this year.

[De Bruin] Mr Botha, regardless of what one may say, the concern in this country, and for all people in the final analysis, is over the future for themselves and their children. It is very obvious that the outside world is not exactly satisfied with what South Africa is doing here. I have in mind the referendum, which was perhaps a great watershed for us this year. Are there concessions which would be great enough to ensure the safe survival of the whites in this country?

[Botha] Regarding the outside world, we will have to make a clear distinction. We must distinguish between our sworn enemies and those who are more or less their allies. We cannot make any concessions to them regarding the assured existence of the whites here. Indeed, they will only be satisfied with the total capitulation and surrender of all white authority in South Africa, but it goes further. They will not be satisfied like the Western world to cooperate with stable black governments or a black government in South Africa, because of the black leaders in our midst who maintain stability and order and are slightly pro-Western. That

is my opinion, because of Russian designs and backing of many acts in Southern Africa. The Russian leaders themselves have stated their aims. They have categorically stated that they want southern Africa's mineral resources and its strategic position, and to control the developed infrastructure of South Africa. It has been clearly and repeatedly stated by various Russian leaders, and I think we will be making a mistake in South Africa if we lose sight of this.

There is another part of the outside world with certain characteristics that I would like to warn. We haven't the time to deal with all the different angles, but let us look at some of them. If I include the investors, entrepreneurs, and friends of South Africa who attach value to the stability in South Africa, that part of world opinion — even though it cannot be satisfied with, let's say, the constitutional dispensation — that part of world opinion is thoroughly favorable and sympathetically impressed by the steps taken by the government to bring about a new constitutional dispensation for South Africa. This I experienced recently.

But you know there is so much hypocrisy, and it is not necessary for me to elaborate. For example, during my recent tour to Europe the foreign minister of one of the countries I visited told me that South Africa was condemned at the New Delhi Commonwealth conference. I just smiled. I asked him what he would say if I proved that at least two of the countries, two of the African countries at the New Delhi conference, had congratulated me on behalf of their governments on the referendum result. You see, it is that type of hypocrisy which causes me, in my position, to frequently accept the viewpoints of other governments with more than a pinch of salt, perhaps with a bucketful.

[De Bruin] Mr Botha, we would like to go back to what you were saying about that part of world opinion, because for the average man in the street it seems as if with these so-called friends of ours, it is not necessary to have enemies. Can we just look at few problem areas quickly? You know in South-West Africa — there are so many cliches one can dispose of when talking about South-West Africa — there has been talk over the past years of progress and a possible settlement within 18 months or 3 years. Where do we stand now, following the Cape Verde negotiations and your visit to Europe?

[Botha] We are still at the crossroads, unfortunately. We are no nearer agreement on whether there will be an internationally acceptable settlement, for the simple reason that there is no agreement on the Cuban withdrawal. That is, as you know, a key issue on South Africa's part for the execution of any settlement plan. Indeed, we believe there can be no peaceful settlement — there may be an internationally acceptable settlement on paper — we do not believe there can be a peaceful settlement and that peace will be promoted unless the struggle and conflict in Angola can be incorporated, and that struggle and conflict revolves mainly around what I see as the foreign occupation, by Cuban troops, of an African state.

There was never a test of the Angolan people's opinion. The Cubans were not brought into Angola to stop South Africa. Nobody believes that. They arrived in those early days when UNITA, FNLA, and MPLA would have ruled until elections had been held. They were brought by the clever tactics of the Marxists, and Russia specifically, to get rid of UNITA and the FNLA, and they are still there to maintain that government against the will, according to me, of the overwhelming majority of Angolans. So that is broadly the position. It is an annoying position, to put it gently. It has been going on for years. Six years ago we had a similar interview and much has been done internationally in these 6 years to move closer to a settlement for South-West Africa. Indeed so much has been done that we are now at the point where a settlement could be reached if the Cubans would withdraw from Angola. Then it would be settled, but that is naturally a very great question at the moment.

[De Bruin] The signs are there, it seems, that the Cubans are, with SWAPO, becoming more militant. In addition, the ceasefire proposal from South Africa has been rejected. Are we not building — I do not know if we should blame the Americans there — but are we not building on attitudes which do not actually exist?

[Botha] Not as far as the Americans are concerned. I think I must make that clear here. They have stood firm on a Cuban withdrawal. They have stood firm under circumstances where their European allies began to hesitate. They have stood firm — there is no doubt about that. And I have been assured of that again in the discussions I held with Dr Crocker. South Africa's offer not to cross the border on the condition that the Angolan Government, SWAPO, and the Cubans did not abuse the situation has been rejected by Angola, but I believe, to their own detriment, because, regardless of what Angola may say, this was an attempt by South Africa to bring about peace and a lessening of tension in the whole region. And I still believe that reasonable thinkers in other countries are now blaming Angola. In my opinion, in the future Angola will not be able to make allegations of South African aggression with the same ease as was possible before, nor can they say and allege that South Africa is virtually permanently in Angola, occupying part of their country. I still believe that South Africa's offer has made an impression on reasonable governments, as it did on the U.S. Government: The U.S. Government welcomed South Africa's offer. So on the one hand, as far as South-West Africa is concerned, South Africa is prepared to implement on condition that the Cubans withdraw, and we have support for this standpoint, which we did not have about 5 or 6 years ago.

[De Bruin] Is part of the problem not that Angola does not really have control over the conflict in the country? Are they in a position to accept such a proposal?

[Botha] That is the question. It is a very important question. It is the question with which we are grappling. Who is it that controls that government? For example, if that government if really suffering and the people of Angola are suffering because of the civil war — which is also being conducted by UNITA against Luanda — and it was really its sincere desire to acquire peace now, then the easiest thing would be to accept South Africa's offer without feeling humbled. Because that is eventually the position with governments: They do not want to feel humbled. Yet they cannot accept that, which makes one think that what is implied in the question is true: that Russia is probably behind the pressure not to accept a peaceful settlement, because it is never, as I understand it, in Russia's interest to bring about peace

in any part of the world.

[De Bruin] Regarding the Cuban withdrawal from Angola, who must get the Cubans out of that country? Is it America, Dos Santos, the Frontline States, or South Africa? How on earth can one get them out with their massive Russian support?

[Botha] That is the question. But, you see, the question goes deeper. Does Angola want peace? Angola is saddled at the moment with a civil war. They refer to UNITA as bandits, but they can call UNITA bandits until they are blue in the face. The fact is being generally accepted internationally today that UNITA has attained great successes and that UNITA enjoys much support from a large part of Angola. That is a fact that cannot be wished away. So if the government in Angola — and this is what the question is really about — wants peace, then I believe that that government should show a readiness to talk with UNITA.

We have shown our readiness. So I believe that it is not impossible to reach that peace, but then you do not need the Cubans. If you want peace in your country, and if you want to make peace with a civil uprising or with a party or a group such as UNITA, who are fighting against you, then why do you need foreign troops who are unpopular in your country? Because the Cubans are unpopular. They molest the blacks. There are allegations that FAPLA forces get poorer food than the Cuban soldiers. The Cuban speaks Spanish. He is regarded as a stranger and, in many respects, the blacks see them as the Portuguese against whom they fought decades ago. So viewed from every angle, if, and I repeat if, it is really the Luanda government's desire to attain peace in the country and with its neighbors and to focus its attention on development in the country — the true task of a government — then it will not be such a difficult task to ask the Cubans to leave the country.

[De Bruin] The Russians do not want it. It provides the foothold and grip that the Russians already have on Angola. It seems as if it is insurmountable.

[Botha] I grant you, you are right. That is a question that cannot be completely answered. But in the light of the latest developments, it seems that Russia's grip on the Angolan Government is greater that most people realize.

[De Bruin] Mr Botha, there is perhaps a very important matter for us in South Africa, and that is the Americans. We are very happy that the Americans have adopted such an attitude, but what happens now if another administration takes office in America? There is the question of the embassy bombings and the feeling against war and meddling, which is very strong in America. There is Jesse Jackson, who is running for the Presidency. They want to make South Africa a point of dispute. Can America afford to maintain its demand for a Cuban withdrawal despite Third World and Western pressures? Can South Africa maintain its demand if America is no longer able to?

[Botha] We will have to stick to that demand. You see, other countries can withdraw from Africa, and other countries can, for their strategic considerations, reject standpoints which former governments have praised. With us it not just a matter of a stand which we have taken openly. If it was just that, then a government must be prepared to modify those standpoints. A government which does not have the mechanism for change is looking for trouble in today's world, where enemies are frequently not identifiable. One should be able to change tactics, strategy, and aims, but — what is more important — one should change one's methods about stated objectives.

Now against that background, what is our position? It is not just that the people of South-West Africa should be able to to decide on their constitutional future without intimidation, although that is important. We are commited to ensure that the inhabitants of South-West should take that decision freely and without intimidation for outside. But this is a phenomenon which will affect the whole of Southern Africa. Nobody can dispute that if the Cuban presence in Angola is allowed to become such a power factor that it causes the people of South-West Africa to decide otherwise, then we should have no illusions. The pattern that is set in South-West Africa will be set for all southern African countries. The pattern will become radical, so that political solutions in southern Africa will be decided by means of threats, terror, and intimidation.

We will have to decide what future there is for us under these cricumstances. If this brings us into collision with another administration in America or with the outside world, it is naturally important. But what is more important is what we want. In the southern African context we are not of little importance; we are important. We are a power with interests. We cannot be compared with the large powers in international politics, no. But in southern Africa, in Africa where we are based, we are of importance. We have certain rights. I believe we have the capability to enforce those rights if we must. We want peace, but we are able to account for ourselves if they desire our downfall. I feel that we should continue, as far as possible through dialogue with Western countries and also with our neighboring states, to seek peace, but we should be prepared to protect our interests in the final instance with military capability.

[De Bruin] Mr Botha, those are optimistic words, if my deductions are correct, that we have the power and the will and we will stand up even if we have to stand alone. The danger is that we stand branded in world politics, and also we are high up on the list as a country whose system should be terminated — our internal dispensation and everything. Has South Africa the capability to hold on indefinitely?

[Botha] It is unavoidable that we should stand alone. It is not a new phenomenon with us, with our abundant strategic materials and minerals, with our strategic geographic position. The sea route of the Cape is the most important sea channel in existence. With our developed infrastructure in South Africa, we are a tempting target for Russia, there is no doubt. If we did not want to be thus, we should not have developed, and we should be poor, and we should not be situated at the southern tip of Africa. The mere fact that we have developed and that we have built up power, economically, militarily and otherwise, has led unavoidably to our being caught up in the onslaught since World War II that resulted from the power struggle between Russia and America, or between Russia and its allies and the West in general.

I am not saying that South Africa should sit back satisfied and develop an isolationist mentality. We are not isolated in the sense that we do not communicate with the outside world. I really believe that the truth about Africa is dawning fast. That truth is, the truth does not please me, but it is a fact. It is as plain as a pole above water that the majority of African states cannot fend for themselves. They are deteriorating economically and socially. All their infrastructures are sinking. None of the essential services are functioning properly. Their agricultures are in trouble. Africa has to import more grain now than in the colonial era. There is famine, disease, ignorance everywhere. On every level of existence the facts show that Africa is sliding deeper and deeper into misery.

I do not say we should derive pleasure from this state of affairs. It would suit us if Africa could flourish so that we could have markets near us. Then there would be more interests that they would wish to safeguard, and then one could, in those circumstances of greater equality of interests, find solutions with black leaders north of us. It is the frustration which has sprouted from this underdevelopment of Africa and its deterioration which causes those leaders to look for reasons, and we are one of those reasons.

To sum up, I have no doubt that the conflict situation around South Africa will increase before there is a breakthrough. I have no doubt that as we progress with resolving our internal problems our enemy's attempts to contain us will become more acute. That is precisely what is happening. Our best evidence that we are progressing internally is the fact that the United Nations has rejected the new constitution. That is the best proof that we are progressing. I am telling you today. My grandfather told me that you can learn much from what your enemy thinks about you. This is true even today. I am more optimistic now than I was 6 years ago. The conflict has increased, but South Africa's progress has also increased. I believe that there are enough moderate leaders in our country — white, colored, Indian, and black — who will realize that in our situation there can be no one outright winner in one group. It is, as it were, our destiny that we should come together — that we, by means of agreement or otherwise, work out workable political structures to eliminate political struggle, polarization, and domination, but cooperate on the economic, social, and educational spheres, and on all the important areas of existence.

I believe that when the world exercises pressure, the moderate leaders in our country also realize that there will be no salvation in any foreign promises that are made, because nowhere in Africa have those promises been fruitful. The proof is there; the concrete evidence is there.

[De Bruin] Mr Botha, is it also true what you have said? Can we also say of our potentially dangerous neighbor near Pretoria that there is a breakthrough, or is it part of a diabolical plan to effect a temporary policy adjustment and perhaps later get at South Africa by other means?

[Botha] Do you know you are now touching on a serious matter? When you sit and talk to these people, the members of the Mozambique Government, as I have done on more than one occasion, then it is this question which nags one. It is the question with which you wrestle: With whom are you talking? Are you talking to an African government, an African neighbor of yours, or with an extension of Moscow? It is most annoying, and therefore, there is suspicion. I have told them, not in a challenging way but just because it is my way, over the table to their faces that I do not trust them: Your statements in the OAU, UN, on television, and your leaders' statements abroad indicate one thing, and that is that you want to destroy my country. And unless I can be reassured of change and trust, I will not be party to a plan which would put us in an unfavorable position in which we needed their goodwill. We should try to find ways of improving our relations, especially since Portugal is prepared to play a constructive role in this connection by sending people there to farm and help generally in the infrastructure, and especially since the United States is trying hard to wrest the Mozambique Government from the clutches of Moscow to a more Western orientation. We cannot stand in the way of such attempts, but when we participate in such an effort, we will have to do it in a step-by-step manner so that we do not burn the bridge behind us.

[De Bruin] Mr Botha, one thinks of many things. The question is: What should our attitude be toward these neighboring states? Must we permit uncontrolled arms build-up which goes hand in hand with the undermining of South Africa? And terrorism: At what stage must we do something? The other question is: Would it not be true that if one looks from a Soviet viewpoint, they should have respect for South Africa as the major power in southern Africa, and realize that South Africa can hit back very hard? I would imagine that is a factor which worries the Russians. Then too, South Africa's ability to support the counterrevolutionary forces: Is it not part of their strategy to pacify us?

[Botha] That could be, but we are not going to be pacified. We have but one standard, and that is that the countries around us most stop harboring terrorists who enter our country to set off bombs. It is simple, it is elementary, it is clear — and I have said in public, as has the prime minister — that even if this attitude leads us into conflict with the whole world, including the United States, we will not deviate from this attitude. If we deviated, all would be lost for us.

[De Bruin] Does it worry you that by making agreements with these people, it may appear that we have no power? Often these agreements are not worth the paper they are written on. When one thinks of Lesotho or Mozambique — we held talks with them at the border, and yet, in the Schoeman affair, for example, they allowed the man to parade for all the world to see with all sorts of falsehoods — do the agreements and attitudes one tries to create mean anything to these people?

[Botha] Good question. The point is, are they able to carry out the things they would like to? Sometimes it appears to me they do not even have that ability. But the fact is, the problem is theirs, not mine. My problem is, they must be prevented from harboring terrorists on their soil. If they do not agree to that, then in my opinion South Africa will not in future be able to limit itself to retaliatory actions. We will then have to consider further steps.

[De Bruin] Such as, may we ask?

[Botha] No, I would rather not elaborate, but I cannot see that we have to continue year after year with this endless prospect of retaliation. The attacks against our country will have to be stopped. And the world must know that.

[De Bruin] Mr Botha, can we look briefly at our so-called friends? I am referring here to pronouncements by Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe. Then there is France, which now wants to withdraw from the discussions of the Western nations. Have we not been building on false hope by thinking of these people as friends? Are they our friends? It does not seem so.

[Botha] I am glad you asked this question. I think many members of the public will remember, and very clearly too, that when the present French Government came into power, I stated in public that I expected no change, that they would continue as they have in the past. I said the same when President Reagan came into power. The problem is that many of our people base their hopes on favorable utterances, on sympathetic utterances from these so-called conservative governments, made when they were in opposition. When they come into power, our people foresee great change.

I have never thought that, because I know what is involved in international politics. I know the limitations under which these governments come — in the United Nations, elsewhere in the great-power struggle, from pressure groups within these countries. Look at the United States at present. Even though President Reagan would have wanted to block the legislation which would make it difficult for us to get IMF loans — and some of his supporters did lobby to block the legislation — his own Congress, his own legislative bodies turned against him, and against us. I am aware of these things. I spent 12 years abroad. I have never had illusions, and I have warned our people countless times that there is no country in the world that can save us, even if they stand by you sympathetically in public. History has shown that sympathy from other countries, even in your hour of crisis, does not help. We must ourselves solve our problems here. We are the proper people for that. It is the task of the leaders of South Africa, and we must not engage in escapist tactics by seeking favor from other governments.

[De Bruin] Let me ask you this: If we then have true friends — let us consider Israel and Taiwan and those countries friendly towards us — is this also just a game of interests, and should we be wary that in the international arena no one can be your true friend?

[Botha] That's the way it is, and there is nothing wrong with that. Not at all. That's just the way the international arena is constituted. It's a jungle. It reminds one of earliest times, when your own ability was, in the final reckoning, the only factor which would determine your survival or your downfall. Taiwan, Israel, South Africa find themselves in much the same situation. They are, these three, the outcasts. Not one of us belongs to large groupings, conferences, conventions such as NATO. So these three have a natural tendency to seek each other in friendship and cooperation. It is a realistic basis on which they work together.

But I'd like to remind you of what I said earlier, that where I found it difficult, for example, when I was ambassador in Washington, to find sympathy for our position among certain of the more liberal senators, that sympathy does exist, even though it is not admitted in public. That again shows how things are. As Africa disintegrates, as we progress domestically, as reasonable people abroad see how this government is battling to produce internal reform, they understand that this government is correct, that it has carried out what it believes despite the fact that the ruling party has lost considerable support among its own people. These are painful experiences which beckon to politicians in other countries.

Finally, I wish to say that those who invest with us and trade with us have trust in South Africa. They are not only friends of this country, they trust us. In the final analysis it is not only friendship which ensures a country's survival internationally; it is your stability, the degree to which you encourage trust that you can maintain law and order, your security as a country for investment, your integrity, whether you repay your debts or not — these are the factors which in the long term carry you through. Looking at the world around us today, I do not believe that the facts and the times are against South Africa. The facts and the times are against South Africa's enemies.

[De Bruin] Mr Botha, our people are concerned, and I mean especially the Afrikaans-speaking people among our listeners, that the cold facts are against us. I'm sure we have no illusions — the ratio of numbers, rejection by the world, the pincers of Marxism. I wish to refer to a poet who said the growth of a small nation is a game of chance: It has to germinate among the great powers like a plant among the trampling hooves of a herd of game. Every minute it can be trampled. Preserve it, if it believes that it will be protected by its right alone in a world of power struggles. Now, you have struck a note of optimism by saying many still wish to invest with us and trade with us. Are there other encouraging signs of which we are perhaps unaware? Are there talks behind the scenes that you perhaps cannot tell us about?

[Botha] There are indeed sometimes talks behind the scenes which give me encouragement. You see, it is true that the plant you refer to, which took root here, cannot be transplanted. Its roots are here. It must be strong enough to brave the storms. If some of its branches are torn off it must have enough gum to heal the wound. It must be able to give protection. It cannot flee from a drought or from lightning. It must be deep-rooted. It is important that every remedy we possess must be used to strengthen that tree, and one of the most powerful remedies is unity, singlemindedness. If we destroy ourselves, we do not need the world to destroy us.

[Botha] When I visited Rome recently, I saw the wall built by a Caesar about 270 AD. The wall is about 60 feet high, 12 feet wide, and for that period it was a great engineering triumph. That wall was built to keep the onslaughts of the barbarians at bay. It created a false sense of security among the Romans. In the end, the wall was no protection for them, even though Rome was a powerful empire. That's why I am convinced that even powerful countries are not assured of survival by that kind of protection. I would say our survival can be assured if we build our wall of different materials. Those materials are belief, unity of spirit,

hard work, love for our country, discerning decisions and actions, goodwill towards each other regardless of the color of one's skin, the greatest degree of advancement of structures to give expression to the aspirations of our population groups, economic development and progress and economic stimulation towards progress for our colored and Indian and black communities. These are the factors, the material for a wall which can become impenetrable.

But what can they do to us if in the meantime we have to hold talks? They will have to conquer us. Now, you cannot conquer a nation if it is steeped in trust and loves its soil and has sworn it will not allow anyone to take its land. That kind of willpower is not something to which only great powers are entitled. A small nation is also entitled to it, but it has to be cultivated. And that is our difficulty. We need the greatest measure of unity. Not to keep a specific government or a specific party in power, but to assure the survival of our nation — the whites, and all the other groups here. Because the black nations will also suffer, just as they are suffering now in Africa. And that is a fact.

The black man, woman, and child in the rest of Africa — what rights do they have? Can they turn to the courts? What food do they have? Do they have jobs? What kind of life are they living? Do they ever elect a government? Are they permitted criticism? They are not. Their fundamental rights have been eroded. One could almost say they are living a life of inhumanity. There is nothing humanly worthy in such a life. And that will be the fate of the black masses of South Africa too. So this unity of spirit that I desire should not only be confined to the whites, but, beyond them, it should be found in all leaders who love their countrymen, who cherish peace, who want progress, and who desire to be strong enough against the onslaught against us.

[De Bruin] From what you say, the greatest threat to South Africa is, then, internal, not external?

[Botha] I would not like to use the word threat. Let me put it this way: The greatest danger to us is mistakes which we may make internally. Because these things are heard at the United Nations, they are listened to there at their watering-hole, their bar — there's a large bar at the UN where many of the delegates spend a considerable portion of their time, and plan many of their diabolical plans. Anyway, it was there that representatives of two communist countries were heard to say: in order to destroy South Africa, we must create divisions. We must divide them, we must get them to fight each other. That shows you that there is respect for South Africa's potential military might, for its economic power. We have achieved so much, it is a miracle when compared with the rest of the world: our roads, our hospitals, our health services, our clinics. In education, we are educating our own people, our own engineers, our own pilots, own clergymen, own teachers, farmers. In every major sphere of life, how this country has achieved. It would be tragic if we, with all God has given us — our mineral wealth, our technology, our scientific knowledge, our technological knowledge, the physical infrastructure that we have built — still act in such a manner that we injure ourselves by internal divisions, by misunderstanding, by feelings of hatred towards one another, by misinterpreting each others wishes and aspirations. Well, then we do not need the world to destroy us. Then we do not need the Cubans, the Russians, the UN. And on our epitaph will be written: In their poverty and in their adversity they were great and proud, but in their prosperity they were small and petty.

[De Bruin] Mr Botha, you have emphasized attitudes. In the light of the attitude the whites have revealed with the referendum, I would like to ask you in conclusion whether you feel more hopeful now, at the end of 1983, than, perhaps, at the beginning?

[Botha] Very much so. Let me tell you, I feel strengthened, revitalized. And what's more, it is not true that all black leaders are against this new constitutional dispensation. I cannot give you names, but I said at the outset there are two African states which congratulated us on the result, because in this new constitution they see an attempt by this government, and by leaders of the coloreds and some of the Indian leaders, to move forward, to bring about greater stability. And stability is also in the interests of the leaders in Africa. War and conflict and dispute only serve the interests of our enemies, our common enemies. The African leader who cares about his people, who would like to progress, who wants a better life for his children than he had, will be interested in every attempt by the white government aimed at bringing about greater stability, greater unity of spirit.

[De Bruin] Do you have a wish for 1984? Where do you think we will be this time next year?

[Botha] I have one dominant desire for which I pray. It is, that the rains must continue, and our dams must be filled. That is my desire. Then, I believe, however difficult we are finding things in our economy and our foreign relations, South Africans will demonstrate enough perception, courage, and belief to put together political structures which will be workable, and which will promote domestic stability to a great degree.

[De Bruin] Mr Botha, on behalf of our listeners I would like to thank you very much. You hold one of the most difficult posts in this country, and you do so with so much confidence and distinction. We wish you at this season a blessed Christmas and a new year filled with joy.

[Botha] Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

ZIMBABWE

Organizing Secretary Discusses 2d ZANU Congress

MB181145 Harare THE HERALD in English 9 Dec 83 p 4

[Text] The second national congress of ZANU (PF) planned for May will provide the stage and legitimate audience at which the long and tortuous history of the party will be told, says the organising secretary of the party, Cde Maurice Nyagumbo.

Writing in the December issue of the party's official organ, *ZIMBABWE NEWS, he said the current Central Committee* "has to narrate this long story, giving an account of its performance of the tasks it was given: its failures and tribulations, successes and strategies, eulogies and elegies over the 20 years since the first congress."

He said this would be done although some of the members of the

Central Committee were not elected at the first congress and others had reneged or fallen in the struggle.

The second congress would also be a turning point for the party and the nation in that it would go into details about the party's chosen policy of socialism.

"One could accurately say that the first congress fought the armed struggle and won political power for the masses, but having chosen socialism it did not go further to define the details."

Although the story of the armed struggle would be long and complex, full of mistakes and failures, the first congress would acquit itself well because of its insight and courage and final victory in April 1980.

The second congress would then take up the story and resolve the ideological question, he said.

Since 1980 the ZANU (PF)-led Government had been building socialism in Zimbabwe with commendable success, especially so because there had been no recent national congress to have given it a concrete socialist programme of action, he said.

At Chimolo in Mozambique in 1977 the party had opted for Marxism-Leninism as the brand of socialism it would follow and since coming to power there had been much rhetoric on socialism by ZANU (PF) ministers and members of Parliament with varying degrees of accuracy, he said.

ZANU (PF)'s real position in regard to socialism had been sought by both cynics and well-wishers. Some cynics had even queried the claim by ZANU (PF) that it was a Marxist-Leninist party. "Some have even charged that the rhetoric on socialism is a smokescreen to hide the capitalist tendencies of some of the party's top leadership," he said.

But the second national congress would address the ideological question and work out a concrete programme on such matters as:

The creation of party cadres; the stages, tactics and strategies of transformation of the economy from capitalism to socialism; the characteristics of each stage, including the identification of the primary enemy at each stage; permissible class alliances; a programme of political, ideological, technical, and cultural education of the workers and peasants; and the transformation of the relations of the party and state apparatus.

Once that was defined the people would have to choose the quality of leaders that could lead them to realise the socialism of their choice.

"To do this the delegates must not allow themselves to be guided by reactionary ideas and allegiances such as tribalism, nepotism, individualism and capitalism."

ZANU (PF), he said, should have held many congresses between 1964 and 1980 when it became a ruling political party. But that had not been possible because of the unfavourable and often hostile political and military circumstances in which the party and its leadership found themselves.

The hostility of the Smith regime and the demands of prosecuting the armed struggle had had the cumulative effect of separating the party and the leadership from the masses, making the holding of national congresses physically impossible, he said.

But most of the constraints had been removed after the Lancaster House Agreement.